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*City Hall.*  
*Providence, R. I.*

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CIT





THE  
CITY HALL,  
PROVIDENCE.

CORNER-STONE LAID, JUNE 24, 1875. DEDICATED, NOVEMBER 14, 1878.



PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
PREPARED AND PRINTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL.  
MDCCCLXXXI.

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*CITY OF PROVIDENCE.*

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RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

[Approved October 15, 1870.]

RESOLVED, That alderman Elisha C. Mowry, and Messrs. Charles E. Carpenter, J. Lewis Peirce, and Hugh Hamill, of the common council, be, and they are hereby appointed a joint special committee to cause the proceedings at the dedication of the city hall to be printed, together with such other matters connected therewith as they may deem expedient, the expense thereof to be charged to the appropriation for contingencies.

*Witness:*

HENRY V. A. JOSLIN, *City Clerk.*



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## P R E F A C E .

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The city hall is the finest and most imposing public building in the city of Providence. The interest with which it has been visited, and the favorable criticisms which it has universally received from strangers and citizens alike, both as to its completeness of architectural design and its spacious and convenient accommodations for the transaction of municipal business, are the highest tribute to the efforts of the committee who secured the plans, the architect who designed, and the commissioners who supervised.

To the commissioners, has already been awarded by the public admission of competent judges, the praise to which they are justly entitled for a service voluntarily rendered, that the city of Providence has "the best-built and best-appointed city hall in the United States"; and our citizens and tax-payers may well congratulate themselves that this building will stand an enduring monument to them and to all who in any manner have participated in its construction.

Soon after the dedication in November, 1878, the city council passed a resolution thanking the Hon. Abraham Payne for the "eloquent and scholarly oration delivered by him at the dedication," and requesting the committee of arrangements to secure a copy thereof to be printed in such manner as the city council should direct. The copy was duly obtained from Mr. Payne, but the printing was purposely delayed in anticipation of further action of the council, which, October 15th, 1879, took shape in the appointment of a joint special committee,

“to cause the proceedings at the dedication of the city hall to be printed, together with such other matters connected therewith as they may deem expedient.”

For many reasons the committee have been unable to complete earlier the task assigned to them. They trust, however, that the attempt in these pages to preserve a concise history of the undertaking, avoiding, so far as possible, all allusion to the contentions upon the location of the city hall, as well as upon matters arising during the progress of the work, may, in a measure, justify the delay, and may meet the approval of the city council and of our citizens generally.

ELISHA C. MOWRY, *Chairman*,  
CHARLES E. CARPENTER,  
JAMES LEWIS PEIRCE,  
HUGH HAMILL,

*Committee to print the Proceedings at the  
Dedication of the City Hall.*

PROVIDENCE, December 1, 1881.

## THE CITY HALL.

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The first definite action for the erection of a city hall was taken by the city council of the city of Providence, November 10, 1845, when it was

"RESOLVED, That in the opinion of the city council, the safety of the city records and the convenience of the city government, and of the citizens generally, require more safe and ample accommodations.

"RESOLVED, That Messrs. George B. Peck, John J. Stimpson, Moses B. Lockwood, Edward S. Williams, Daniel E. Carpenter, Nathaniel F. Potter, of the common council, and Thomas M. Burgess, mayor, and Thomas C. Hoppin, alderman, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to cause one or more plans for a city hall to be prepared, with estimates of the cost for carrying the same into execution; that said committee report said plans and estimates to the city council, and some mode of paying for said city hall; also a suitable location therefor, and that the cost of such plans and estimates be paid by the city treasurer out of the appropriation for contingencies upon the order of the committee, and that said committee report at the meeting in January."

In January, 1846, this committee reported, "that they have two plans prepared, but as they have been finished but a few days, the committee are not prepared to make a definite recommendation, and they therefore ask leave to make further report at a future meeting."

From that time to the year 1853, various resolutions were

passed by successive councils, appointing committees to select a proper site for the location of a building to be used by the municipal government.

February 13, 1854, a committee was directed to purchase the land whereon the city hall now stands, which was accordingly done on the 22d of April following.

March 26, 1874, nearly twenty years after this purchase, a resolution was passed "that Messrs. Abner J. Barnaby, Charles A. Nichols, Sturgis P. Carpenter, Archibald B. Rice, Raymond G. Place, and George H. Pettis, of the common council, with aldermen Addison Q. Fisher, Abner H. Angell, and William V. Daboll, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to advertise for plans, with approximate estimates of the cost of a city hall, to be built upon the lot belonging to the city, known as the city hall lot, bounded by Dorrance, Washington, Eddy and Fulton streets; said plans to be presented to the committee upon the following conditions: that the city shall pay to the person or persons whose plans shall be selected by the committee, and adopted by the city council, such sum as shall be fixed by the committee, not exceeding one thousand dollars, and no compensation shall be allowed to any person or persons presenting such plans, unless the same shall have been selected by the committee and adopted by the city council. And the committee are hereby directed to reserve the right to reject any and all plans that may be presented to them as aforesaid."

April 16th, of the same year, Mr. Henry A. Cory was added to the committee, and a resolution was passed permitting the payment of a premium to the successful competitor upon the award of the committee, without the approval of the plan by the city council.

This committee immediately proceeded to act under the authority conferred upon them, and September 21, 1874, submitted a partial report as follows:

*To the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence :*

The joint special committee appointed by resolution number 532, passed March 26, 1874, to advertise for plans, with approximate estimates of the cost of a city hall, to be built upon the lot belonging to the city, known as the city hall lot, and bounded by Dorrance, Washington, Eddy and Fulton streets, submit a partial report, as follows :

The committee secured the services of Mr. E. L. Angell, as advisory architect, in making the general floor plans of the building.

In determining the size of the structure to be erected, a very liberal allowance of room was made to each department, so that each department could grow within its own allotted rooms, thus avoiding any changes or alterations in the building for a long period of time ; and also to leave a fair proportion of the building unused at present, to accommodate the future growth of the city.

These general plans were very carefully considered in all their details, and although the progress made by the committee may have appeared slow to members of the city council, who, knowing the needs of the city, were anxious that this great work for the convenience of our citizens should go forward as rapidly as possible, yet the committee feel that the care bestowed upon this preliminary work, has been amply repaid in the perfection of the plans presented to the council this evening.

Plans and estimates were advertised for, upon the following conditions : one thousand dollars to be paid for the plan selected by the committee for a city hall ; five hundred dollars to be paid for the plan selected as second best ; and three hundred dollars for the plan selected as third best. All plans for which a premium should be paid to be the property of the city, the committee reserving the right to reject any or all plans.

In accordance with said advertisement, twenty-one plans were received by the committee, many of them from architects of the highest reputation.

After a most careful examination of the plans presented, in which work the judgment of the committee was materially assisted by members of the city council, and other of our citizens most competent to criticise such work, and also by Messrs. A. C. Morse, architect, and Henry Childs, builder, who were engaged to advise with the committee, and make estimates of cost of the various plans presented, and to the thoroughness of whose work the committee are greatly indebted, the committee selected for a city hall the plans with the device a "*Blue Seal*."

As being entitled to the second premium, they selected those bearing the device a "*Maltese Cross*"; and for the third premium, those with the motto "*Fiat*."

Of the three plans selected, none filled all the requirements of the committee, and none, in the opinion of the committee, was entirely suitable for a city hall without modification and amendment.

The committee therefore selected those to which the first premium had been awarded as being of the style of architecture that afforded the best promise of ultimate perfection, and requested the author, Mr. S. J. F. Thayer, of Boston, to make such modifications as were suggested; and through his ready compliance and indefatigable labors we are enabled to present the perfected plans this evening.

The building proposed to be erected in accordance with the plans presented, will have a frontage on Dorrance street of 133 feet, extending back on Washington street 158 feet, covering 21,014 square feet. It sits back on Washington street  $17\frac{88}{100}$  feet from the street line, and on Fulton street 20 feet, which will allow for the proper widening of those streets, should such action ever be determined by the city.

The structure is to be of granite, five stories in height, with cellar. The committee earnestly hope that Rhode Island

granite, some of which is very beautiful, may be used in its construction.

For a complete description of the whole building, the council are referred to the communication of Mr. Thayer, attached to, and made a part of, this report.

The cost of the building has been very carefully calculated in all its details by Messrs. Morse and Childs, and it is believed cannot in any event exceed their estimates of \$635,000; and it is believed will fall below that sum, with the competition sure to occur in extensive contracts of this kind.

For a detailed estimate of cost, the city council are referred to the communication of Morse and Childs, attached to this report.

The committee earnestly recommend the plans which they herewith present to the city council for adoption; believing that a city hall erected from them will be an honor and credit to our city, a great convenience to our citizens, and, considering the large and ever increasing amount paid for the rental of city offices, not at all burdensome to the tax-payers of the city.

Your committee are aware that the enterprise, character and progressive spirit of a city is quite generally judged by the character of its public buildings; and while they believe that buildings of this kind should not be too elaborate in decoration, but rather challenge public approbation by the simplicity, beauty and grandeur of their proportions, yet think that a style of too severe simplicity may be as faulty as one of profuse ornamentation. They have therefore endeavored to find the happy medium, and in the plans which are recommended this evening they believe that this idea is fully realized.

In the hope that the same excellences in these plans which first attracted the attention, and finally confirmed the judgment, of the committee, may be equally satisfactory to



the city council, we unanimously unite in recommending the passage of the accompanying resolutions.

ABNER J. BARNABY,  
CHARLES A. NICHOLS,  
STURGIS P. CARPENTER,  
A. B. RICE,  
R. G. PLACE,  
GEO. H. PETTIS,  
HENRY A. CORY,  
ADDISON Q. FISHER,  
ABNER H. ANGELL,  
WM. V. DABOLL.

#### DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN FOR NEW CITY HALL, PROVIDENCE.

##### GENERAL AS TO PLAN.

In plan the building is rectangular, 133 feet on Dorrance and Eddy streets, by 158 feet on Washington and Fulton streets, having a projection of 4×54 feet on Dorrance street, and each of the other fronts having the central portion recede about 2 feet, thus forming a central pavilion on the Dorrance street front, and pavilions at the angles of the flanks on each of the other fronts. Architectural features which will be described hereafter, and are fully illustrated by the drawings herewith submitted.

The stories comprise a cellar, varying from 7½ to 9½ feet in height, as required for heating apparatus, and to avoid excessive expense on account of the danger from tide water; a basement story located about 4 feet above the grade of the sidewalk on Eddy street, having a double entrance from Dorrance street, and entrances in the centre of each of the fronts on the other streets. This story is designed to accommodate the police, fire, health and poor departments, together with all their adjuncts, and other officers, as city registrar, superintendent of hacks, lamps, and sealer of weights and measures, etc. Large fire-proof rooms are provided for the storage of documents, and an ample staircase and elevator leads to the upper stories. Every room is lighted direct from the exterior, and each department is conveniently accessible from the corridors.

First story: Is reached, first, by the principal entrance in the centre of the Dorrance street front, and also by the entrances on Washington, Eddy, and Fulton streets, through the basement story. The principal entrance leads direct to a large central hall; on its right is the mayor's suite, on the left the treasurer and collector. The whole of the Eddy street front is

devoted to large and convenient rooms for records, register of transfers, assessors, and all their adjuncts; the balance of the floor is given to the auditor, city messenger, and janitor. The elevator is located as nearly in the centre of the building as possible, and easily accessible from all entrances. The principal staircase is in the centre of the central hall or light area, and stopping at the second floor secures abundant light for the whole interior of the building.

The mayor's suite, and all the offices, are provided with ample necessary conveniences, as safes, closets, fireplaces, etc., and are studied with care as to the proper relation to each other.

#### SECOND FLOOR.

This floor, containing, as it does, the legislative rooms of the government, has been arranged to accommodate them with the utmost degree of convenience and elegance. The council chamber is in the centre of the Dorrance street front, and the mayor and aldermen's chamber is located at the corner of Dorrance and Washington streets. Each has an exceptionally ample and convenient arrangement of space for members, the public, and such adjuncts as lobbies, committee and coat-rooms, etc. The balance of this floor is devoted to the water board, municipal court, city clerk, and superintendent of schools, together with two committee rooms.

On this floor the central staircase is discontinued for light as before stated, and stairs leading to the upper stories are located on the Fulton street side of the central hall or area.

The third and fourth stories, beside liberal accommodations for the highway, public buildings, engineer and fire alarm departments, contain seven large rooms fit for committees or offices, as yet unappropriated.

Attention is asked to the complete general arrangement of the plans, as to regularity, system, and simplicity, admitting of the soundest construction, with the least complicated methods; also to the ample and elegant arrangement of corridors, stairs, the central hall, and the larger public rooms.

The exterior is fully illustrated by the drawings, showing each front in detail. The style of architecture is Renaissance, of the character widely adopted for civic buildings in the most advanced countries of the world. The materials to be used are light granite for all the fronts. The principal front having a considerable greater degree of elaboration than the others, but all having the prominent features developed with the utmost care and finish.

#### CONSTRUCTION.

The construction of the building is intended to be of the most substantial character, using granite for the foundation walls, brick for all the principal and most of the minor partitions. Finely wrought granite for all the exterior walls, backed with a vaulted brick wall. Fire-proof floors are

intended for the basement and first story, and all surrounding the record and transfer rooms, and elsewhere should it be deemed desirable. The roof, under any circumstances, should be of incombustible materials. Wherever timber floors are used, an effective system of mortar fire-proofing is intended.

Tile floors are to be used in all principal corridors and business rooms, and the staircases are to be of stone or iron.

The finish about the doors and windows is intended to be of hard wood.

Very respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL J. F. THAYER, *Architect*.

#### ESTIMATES OF PROBABLE COST.

PROVIDENCE, Sept. 21, 1874.

Estimate of probable cost at present prices to erect a new city hall building according to first premium design marked by a blue wafer, S. J. F. Thayer, architect.

Items, viz. :	Piling, . . . . .	\$13,500
	Stone foundations, . . . . .	20,800
	Concreting cellar, . . . . .	1 600
	Granite work complete, . . . . .	250,000
	Brick work complete, . . . . .	72,000
	Fire-proof floors (iron and brick), . . . . .	20,514
	Fire-proof floors (wood), . . . . .	13,500
	Iron work (stairs, girders and columns), . . . . .	20,000
	Iron and slate roof, fire-proof, . . . . .	14,754
	Iron and tin roof, fire-proof, . . . . .	11,318
	Plaster and stucco work, . . . . .	15,000
	Upper flooring (hard wood), . . . . .	8,500
	Tiling, . . . . .	21,238
	Marble mantles, soapstone fire-places, and grates, . . . . .	1,000
	Hardware and window weights, . . . . .	6,000
	Gas piping, speaking tubes and bell work, . . . . .	2,000
	Plumbing, . . . . .	12,000
	Vaults, safes and locks, . . . . .	5,000
	Painting and glazing, . . . . .	13,000
	Glass, . . . . .	10,500
	Elevator, . . . . .	8,000
	Carpenters' work, . . . . .	70,056
	Heating and ventilation, . . . . .	23,520
	Total, . . . . .	\$633,800
	Add excavating, . . . . .	1,200
		<hr/>
		\$635,000

## THE CITY HALL.

9

### "BLUE WAFER."

Fire-proofing throughout, . . . . .	\$670,000
Fire-proof floors in basement, first and second stories, . . . .	650,000
Fire-proof basement, and all over and under record and transfer rooms, . . . . .	633,800

### "MALTESE CROSS."

Fire-proof throughout, . . . . .	\$629,000
Fire-proof floors in basement, first and second stories, . . . .	809,000
Fire-proof basement and all over and under record and transfer rooms, . . . . .	789,000

### "FIAT."

Fire-proof throughout, . . . . .	\$689,000
Fire-proof floors in basement, first and second stories, . . . .	669,000
Fire-proof basement, and all over and under record and transfer rooms, . . . . .	649,000

This design is estimated on the same basis as the others as to interior finish. Executed as the author intends, it would prove the most expensive of the three.

The above figures, in our judgment, represent the cost of building the several premiated designs for the proposed new city hall, Providence, R. I.

A. C. MORSE, *Architect*.  
HENRY CHILDS.

Providence, Sept. 21st, 1874.

October 5th, the following resolutions were adopted :

"RESOLVED, That three tax payers of the city of Providence, to be hereafter elected by concurrent vote, be and they are hereby constituted and appointed a commission, and as such are authorized and empowered, to build a city hall, upon the city hall lot, so called, bounded by Dorrance, Washington, Eddy and Fulton streets, in accordance with the plans and elevations recommended by the joint special committee on city hall plans, and presented with their report.

"RESOLVED, That the said commissioners shall make a quarterly report to the city council of their doings, which report shall contain a detailed statement of all receipts, disbursements, and contracts, by them received, disbursed, or made during said quarter."

On the eighth of the same month, Messrs. James Y. Smith, George H. Corliss and William G. R. Mowry, were elected commissioners to build the city hall.

The commission organized on the 12th day of October, 1874, by the election of Hon. James Y. Smith, chairman, and immediately entered upon their duties as prescribed by the following ordinance, passed on the day of their election :

AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF THE CITY HALL COMMISSION.

[Passed October 8, 1874.]

*It is ordained by the City Council of the City of Providence as follows :*

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the city hall commissioners to proceed forthwith to the construction of a city hall, upon the city hall lot, so called, bounded by Dorrance, Washington, Eddy and Fulton streets. Said commissioners are authorized to select one of their number to act as chairman. Two commissioners shall be a quorum for the exercise of the powers and performance of the duties of said office ; provided, however, that the city council by concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members elected to either board, voting in the affirmative, may remove said commissioners, or either of them, from office, for any misconduct or unfaithful performance of duty, neglect or incapacity. In case of a vacancy in the commission, by death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of another commissioner by the city council by concurrent vote of the two branches, who shall hold said office, with all the powers and subject to all the restrictions provided in this ordinance.

SEC. 2. Said commissioners shall have authority to make contracts for labor and materials for the construction of said city hall, which shall be valid and binding upon the city.

All contracts for such labor and material shall be in writing and executed in triplicate, one of which triplicates shall be kept by the commissioners, one shall be delivered to the city auditor, and one to the contractor; and no such contract shall be executed unless good and satisfactory security for the faithful performance of the same, and also to indemnify and save the city harmless from and against all claims against said city, under chapter 166 of the general statutes, by persons who may have done work or labor in the construction and erection of said city hall at the request of such contractor, shall be given by the contractor and approved by the commissioners. Said commissioners, when not otherwise authorized by the city council, shall advertise in one or more newspapers in this city, and in other cities and places, if they think best, for sealed proposals for all such contracts, specifying the time and place where the same shall be received; and such proposals, in order to be received and acted upon, shall set forth a specified sum or price to be paid for all such labor and materials, or for either, without condition, limitation, or alteration, and shall be accompanied with a bond, satisfactory to the commissioners, conditioned for the faithful execution of the proposal, if the same shall be accepted; provided that said commissioners may, in their discretion, reject any or all such proposals; and proceed to contract for such labor and materials at a price not greater than the bid of the lowest responsible bidder; and no contract shall be assigned without the written assent of said commissioners. Said commissioners shall have power and authority to employ such agents, clerks and servants, as they may deem necessary, and to agree with them for their compensation, which shall be paid out of the city treasury; provided that no commission shall be paid to any architect employed by said commissioners for plans or superintendence.

SEC. 3. No one of said commissioners, and no person appointed to any office, or employed by virtue of this ordinance, shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract, bargain, sale, or agreement, in relation to said city hall, or any matter or thing connected therewith, wherein the city is interested, without an express vote of the city council; and any and all contracts, bargains, sales or agreements made in violation of this section shall be utterly void as to the city.

SEC. 4. The said commissioners shall superintend the construction of said city hall, and keep a record of their official proceedings in the matter, and report to the city council once in three months, and at such other times as said city council shall require, a general exhibit of the state of the work. Said commissioners shall keep regular books of account, and all claims against the city on account of the construction of the said city hall, shall be presented to said commissioners, and when approved by them shall be presented to the city auditor, and be proceeded with and paid as other claims against the city are proceeded with and paid.

SEC. 5. The city hall commissioners shall receive no salary or compensation for their services as such commissioners.

October 19, 1874, work was first commenced on the excavation of the lot, and contracts for piling, building foundation walls, furnishing cut granite, brick, lime and cement, and for setting granite and laying brick, were awarded by the commissioners in quick succession, and so expeditiously was the work pushed forward, that the commissioners were enabled to extend the following invitation to the city council to attend the ceremonies of the laying of the corner-stone, the foundation walls having been completed on the 18th day of June, 1875:

OFFICE OF THE CITY HALL COMMISSIONERS, }  
PROVIDENCE, R. I., June 14, 1875. }

*To the Honorable City Council of the City of Providence :*

GENTLEMEN :—The corner-stone of the new city hall will be laid on Thursday, June 24, 1875, at 11 o'clock. By direction of the city hall commissioners, I have the pleasure of inviting you to honor the occasion with your presence. The mayor of the city has been invited to preside ; the grand master of masons for Rhode Island has accepted an invitation to lay the stone with the imposing formalities of the Masonic fraternity, and Gen. Horatio Rogers has accepted an invitation to deliver an address. It is hoped and expected that the ceremonies will be worthy of the city and the occasion.

I am, very respectfully,

JAMES Y. SMITH, Chairman.





# PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE.



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PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE.

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The corner-stone was laid on the 24th day of June, 1875, it being the day kept by the Masonic fraternity in honor of St. John the Baptist.

The different lodges from various parts of the State formed at the appointed hour, and a short march was made through the streets of the city, and upon arrival at the City Building on Market square, his honor the mayor, members of the board of aldermen and common council, and other city officials, joined the procession, and were escorted to the foundation of the city hall in the following order :

Police Skirmishers.

Police, under command of Chief of Police John M. Knowles.

Grand Marshal W., Charles R. Brayton.

Aids to Grand Marshal—Brothers Charles R. Bucklin, George F. Chapman, John J. Jencks, John G. Massie.

FIRST DIVISION.

Platoon of Police.

Assistant Grand Marshal, W., George H. Burnham.

Aids, Brothers Frederick Miller and H. J. Spooner.

Redwood Band of Newport.

St. John's Commandery, Providence, Eminent Commander William Jackson.

Rising Sun Lodge, U. D., East Providence, George N. Bliss, Master.

## THE CITY HALL.

Ionic Lodge, No. 28, Greene, W., George K. Tyler, Master.  
 Granite Lodge, No. 26, Burrillville, W., Frank Keach, Master.  
 Hope Lodge, No. 25, Peace Dale, W., William C. Clarke, Master.  
 Central Falls Band.  
 Jenks Lodge, No. 24, Central Falls, W., Augustine A. Mann, Master.  
 Jillson's Cornet Band, of Wyoming.  
 Charity Lodge, No. 23, Hopkinton, Brother Edward F. Greene, Senior  
 Warden, Acting Master.  
 What Cheer Lodge, No. 21, Providence, W., Charles B. Webster, Master.

## SECOND DIVISION.

Assistant Grand Marshal, W., Henry R. Barker.  
 Aids, Brothers Theodore A. Barton and J. L. Sherman.  
 Woonsocket Cornet Band.  
 Woonsocket Commandery, Woonsocket, Eminent Commander Lebbeus C.  
 Tourtellot.  
 Franklin Lodge, No. 20, Westerly, W., James Potter, Master.  
 Temple Lodge, No. 18, Greenville, W., Ethan C. Thornton, Master.  
 Manchester Lodge, No. 12, Anthony, W., Harvey S. Bartlett, Master.  
 Warwick Lodge, No. 16, Phenix, W., Samuel T. Whipple, Master.  
 Harmony Lodge, No. 9, Pawtuxet, W., Eleazar Ralph, Master.  
 King Solomon's Lodge, No. 11, East Greenwich, W., Thomas W. Bicknell,  
 Master.

## THIRD DIVISION.

Assistant Grand Marshal, W., John P. Luther.  
 Aids, Brothers A. P. Bartlett and J. S. Kellogg.  
 Westerly Brass Band.  
 Narragansett Commandery, Westerly, Eminent Commander James M.  
 Pendleton.  
 Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 8, Smithfield, W., Samuel G. Aull, Master.  
 Friendship Lodge, No. 7, Chepachet, W., Albert Potter, Master.  
 Bristol Cornet Band.  
 St. Alban's Lodge, No. 6, Bristol, W., J. Howard Manchester, Master.  
 Washington Lodge, No. 5, Wickford, W., Joseph E. Spink, Master.  
 Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 4, Providence, Brother Marcus M. Burdick,  
 Senior Warden, Acting Master.

## FOURTH DIVISION.

Assistant Grand Marshal, W., Amos M. Hawkins.  
 Aids, Brothers Oscar Lapham and J. W. Munroe.  
 Pawtucket Band.  
 Union Lodge, No. 10, Pawtucket, W., Stephen F. Fiske, Master.  
 Grand Council Royal and Select Masters.  
 Marshal, J. A. Hill.

G. G., George Fuller,  
 G. R., Walter Blodget.  
 G. Tr., J. M. Wadsworth.  
 G. C. G., George A. Sweet.  
 G. C., G. A. Young.  
 G. P. C. of W., Frank H. Harrington.  
 I. G. M., Robert E. Dwelly.  
 D. P. G. M., John F. Adams.  
 M. P. G. M., Albert H. Cushman.  
 Grand Royal Arch Chapter.  
 G. P. S., J. Coyle.  
 G. C. of H., J. C. Fiske.  
 G. L., H. Greene.  
 G. C., Rev. Wm. N. Ackley.  
 G. S., J. C. Blake.  
 G. T., W. F. Lawton.  
 G. S., O. H. Briggs.  
 G. K., J. F. Gilmore.  
 D. G. H. P., W. T. C. Wardwell.  
 M. E. G. H. P., F. G. Jillson.

Washington Lodge, No. 3, Warren, W., Benjamin Martin, Master.

St. John's Lodge, No. 1, Providence, W., Newton D. Arnold, Master.

St. John's Lodge, No. 1, Newport, Brother William G. Stevens, Senior  
 Warden, Acting Master.

Calvary Commandery, mounted, Senior Warden Nathaniel Grant.  
 American Band of Providence.

Calvary Commandery, Providence, Eminent Commander Eugene D. Burt.

Committee of Arrangements: R. W., Henry A. Pierce, W., Herbert M.  
 Kimball, W., Albert H. Chaffee.

M. W., Thomas A. Doyle, Mayor of Providence, with City and State  
 Officers and Commissioners.

Grand Tyler with drawn sword, W., Ebenezer B. White.

Grand Stewards with white rods, W., J. B. Pierce, W., E. J. Townsend.  
 Past Masters.

Grand Pursuivant, W., Alfred K. Hall.

Grand Musical Director, W., William R. Greene.

Grand Lecturer, W., Stillman White.

A Brother with a golden vessel of corn, Henry J. Reynolds.

Two Brethren with silver vessels of wine and oil, H. W. Blanding and  
 Fred. A. Gladding.

Two Brethren with working tools and trowel, William T. Smith and John  
 B. Winship.

Grand Architect with implements, Brother Samuel J. F. Thayer.

First D. D. G. M., R. W., Millen S. Greene.

Second D. D. G. M., W., Cyrus B. Manchester.

Third D. D. G. M., R. W., Charles D. Greene.

Fifth D. D. G. M., R. W., Dwight R. Adams.  
 Grand Secretary, R. W., Edwin Baker.  
 Grand Treasurer, R. W., Clinton D. Sellow.  
 A Past Master with a burning taper, W., Leonard Wright.  
 Past Master Israel R. Sheldon with Great Lights, supported by W., Wm.  
 N. Bodfish, W., John W. McKnight as Stewards.  
 Two Past Masters with burning tapers, W., Asahel S. Hawkins and W.,  
 Stephen Wright.  
 Grand Chaplain, Rev. and W., Henry W. Rugg.  
 Grand Orator, R. W., Horatio Rogers.  
 Tuscan Order, Brother Jas. B. Chace.  
 Composite Order, Brother John W. Sutton.  
 Doric, Ionic and Corinthian Orders, Brothers Nehemiah Crowell, George  
 D. Morris, Emerson P. Blake.  
 Past Grand Wardens, R. W., Hiram Hill, Charles J. Fales.  
 Past Deputy Grand Masters, R. W., Charles R. Cutler, Phillip B. Bourne,  
 and William B. Snell.  
 Past Grand Masters, M. W., Brothers Oliver Johnson and Ariel Ballou.  
 The two globes, borne by Brothers H. S. Chace and B. Ward.  
 Grand Junior Warden, R. W., John Myers.  
 Grand Senior Warden, R. W., Thomas Vincent.  
 The Master of the oldest Lodge (St. John's Lodge, No. 1, Newport), R.  
 W., Robert S. Franklin, carrying the Book of Constitutions.  
 R. E., Charles Stott, Grand Commander of Templars in Massachusetts  
 and Rhode Island, as Guest.  
 The M. W., Grand Master, Nicholas Van Slyck, supported by the Grand  
 Deacons, W., Anson Greene and W., James M. Davis, with black  
 rods, on a line seven feet apart.  
 Grand Sword Bearer, W., Charles Salsteen.  
 Two Stewards with white rods, W., Brothers Benjamin A. Reynolds and  
 David L. Fales.

The exercises, after a voluntary by the band, commenced with the following :

ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR, THOMAS A. DOYLE.

FELLOW CITIZENS :—From the earliest period it has been the custom upon the erection of any great public building, to set with more or less ceremony a particular stone, which was thereafter known as the chief corner or foundation stone of the work. In the course of time this duty came to be performed by a society whose organization and early history

is lost in antiquity, but who, despite the lapse of time, and the opposition of the church and state, has continued to flourish until its representatives are to be found in every part of the globe. Upon being requested by those in authority, this society has gathered, and with always the same ceremony, but with varying pomp, have placed the stone in position. In this country the general government has recognized the institution, and upon the building of the capitol, its various department edifices, its custom houses, post offices and court houses, have generally had a corner-stone laid by this organization. The states have at different times followed its example, and their various capitols, as well as the city halls of various municipalities, have likewise called this institution to perform the duty. When our own state built its first public monument, the legislature invited the Masonic organizations to come, and they came, brought forth the stone and laid it in its place. In view of these facts the commissioners, who were elected by the city council to erect the city hall for the city of Providence, invited the grand master of Masons, and the officers and members of the Grand Lodge to place a corner-stone, with their peculiar ceremonies, in this building, and their action was approved by the city council. For that purpose we are here assembled, and as the presiding officer of the occasion, invited by the courtesy of the commission, it is now my duty, Most Worshipful Master, to request you to proceed with the work of laying the foundation of the city hall of the city of Providence, in accordance with the rights and usages of our ancient organization.

The Masonic ceremonies were then begun by the grand master commanding silence. Following the invocation by the grand chaplain, the invitation of the commissioners to the Grand Lodge to lay the corner-stone was read by the grand secretary, after which Rev. Henry W. Rugg, grand chaplain, delivered an eulogy upon Masonry, "worthy of the



occasion and the organization in behalf of which it was uttered."

Upon the conclusion of the eulogy, a hymn was sung, and the casket which was to be deposited beneath the corner-stone was produced, and a list of its contents was read, as follows :

CONTENTS OF THE BOX DEPOSITED BENEATH THE CORNER-STONE.

1. A silver plate with the following inscription : This foundation stone of a City Hall, erected by the City of Providence, to be occupied for the purposes of the municipal government, was laid in ample and ancient form, according to the usages of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, on Thursday, June 24, A. L., 5875, A. D., 1875, by the Most Worshipful Nicholas Van Slyck Grand Master of Masons in Rhode Island, assisted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, and the Subordinate Lodges in the jurisdiction.

R. W., EDWARD L. FREEMAN,	Deputy Grand Master.
R. W., THOMAS VINCENT,	Grand Senior Warden.
R. W., JOHN MYERS,	Grand Junior Warden.
R. W., CLINTON D. SELLEW,	Grand Treasurer.
R. W., EDWIN BAKER,	Grand Secretary.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

R. W., Henry A. Pierce; W., Herbert M. Kimball; W., Albert H. Chaffee.

Ulysses S. Grant, being President of the United States, Henry Lippitt, Governor of Rhode Island, and Thomas A. Doyle, Mayor of Providence.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN :

President, Addison Q. Fisher.

Alfred Metcalf,	Addison Q. Fisher,	John B. Anthony,
George T. Spicer,	Albert H. Manchester,	Nathaniel F. Potter,
Abner H. Angell,	J. Lippitt Snow,	William V. Daboll.
	Amasa M. Eaton,	
	Clerk, Samuel W. Brown.	

COMMON COUNCIL:

President, Francis Colwell.

Elisha C. Mowry,	Stillman White,	Oren Westcott,
John P. Cooney,	Henry L. Parsons,	William W. Douglas,
John C. Pegram,	Dexter B. Lewis,	Clinton D. Sellew,
Sturgis P. Carpenter,	Edward C. Ames,	Thomas A. Millett,
Abner J. Barnaby,	William W. Paine,	Francis Colwell,
Charles F. Sampson,	William W. Rickard,	William Spencer,
Henry A. Cory,	John W. Briggs,	William S. Hayward,
Archibald B. Rice,	Henry C. Bradford,	Daniel E. Day,
Jerothmul B. Barnaby,	William D. Hilton,	William S. Johnson,
George W. Babcock,	Edwin A. Smith,	Benjamin Hunt, Jr.,
Russell A. Denison,	Nicholas A. Fenner,	James Ardern,
George H. Pettis,	Henry R. Barker,	William Y. Potter,
Hugh Hamill,	James J. Nolan,	John Morris.
Hiram A. Short,		

Clerk, Joshua M. Addeman.

JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO PROCURE PLANS AND ESTIMATES  
FOR A CITY HALL.

Abner J. Barnaby,	Charles A. Nichols,	Sturgis P. Carpenter,
Archibald B. Rice,	Raymond G. Place,	George H. Pettis,
Henry A. Cory,	Addison Q. Fisher,	Abner H. Angell.
	William V. Daboll,	

CITY HALL COMMISSIONERS:

James Y. Smith, Chairman, William G. R. Mowry, George H. Corliss,  
Charles F. Eddy, Secretary.

ARCHITECT:

Samuel J. F. Thayer.

SUPERINTENDENT:

Sumner P. Brown.

2. Silver trade dollar, silver half dollar, silver quarter dollar, silver twenty cent piece, silver ten cent piece; nickel five cent piece, nickel three cent piece; bronze one cent piece, all of 1875 coinage, in a sealed box. Fractional currency, fifty cents, twenty-five cents, fifteen cents, ten cents, five cents, three cents, all in a sealed bottle.

3. Ordinances of the City of Providence.

4. Resolutions of the City Council for 1873-4-5.

5. Rules of Order of the Board of Aldermen, 1875.

6. Rhode Island Manual for 1874-5.

7. Providence City Manual, 1875.
8. Providence Tax Book, 1874.
9. Providence Directory and Rhode Island Business Directory and Register, 1875,
10. Report of City Auditor, for 1874.
11. Report of Highway Commissioners for 1874.
12. Report of School Committee for 1874.
13. Report of City Engineer for 1874.
14. Report of Fire Department for 1874.
15. Report of Chief of Police for 1874.
16. Report of Superintendent of Public Buildings for 1874.
17. Report of Providence Reform School for 1874.
18. Report of Superintendent of Lights for 1874.
19. Semi-Annual Report of City Solicitor.
20. Report of Inspector of Milk for 1874.
21. Fifth Quarterly Report of Water Commissioners, June 1st, 1875.
22. Fifth Report of Board of Water Commissioners on Sewers.
23. Report upon Lighting of Street Lamps by Electricity.
24. Report concerning a Scheme of Harbor Improvements for Providence Harbor and Adjacent Basins, with proposed Harbor Lines.
25. Report of Joint Special Committee appointed to procure Plans and Estimates for a City Hall.
26. Message of the Mayor relating to the Piling and Foundations of the City Hall, with accompanying papers.
27. Report of City Hall Commissioners to the City Council.
28. Report of Rhode Island Historical Society, 1873-4.
29. Report of the Trustees of the Rhode Island Hospital, 1874.
30. Report of Providence & Worcester R. R. for 1874.
31. Report of Boston & Providence R. R., 1874.
32. Estimates of the Receipts and Expenditures of the City of Providence for the financial year ending September 30, 1876.
33. Warrant of the Mayor for calling meetings.
34. Commission of the Mayor for appointment on the Police force.
35. City Government of the City of Providence for the year 1875.
36. Board of Trade Charter, By-Laws, Regulations and list of Officers and Members.
37. Dorrance and Washington Street Views of the new City Hall.
38. Piling and Foundation Plans of the new City Hall.
39. Granite Plans and Specifications of the new City Hall,
40. Iron Plans and Specifications of the new City Hall.
41. International Exhibition, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, 1876; Acts of Congress relating thereto; Rules and Regulations, and Descriptions of Buildings.
42. Silver and Bronze Centennial Medals.
43. The following newspapers published in the city of Providence: Temple of Honor, June 1st, 1875; General Advertiser, June 19th, 1875; Providence Sun, June 19th, 1875; Town and Country, June 22d, 1875;

Providence Evening Press, June 23d, 1875; Providence Evening Bulletin, June 28d, 1875; Providence Morning Star, June 24th, 1875; Providence Daily Journal, June 24th, 1875,

44. Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of R. I. for 1870-1.
45. Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of R. I. for 1873-4.
46. Constitution of the M. W. Grand Lodge.
47. Order of Service for Dedication of Masonic Halls.
48. Order of Service for Constitution of Masonic Lodges.
49. Masonic Burial Office.
50. Copies of circulars relating to the Corner-Stone of the City Hall.
51. Order of Service for laying the Corner-Stone.
52. Organization of the M. W. Grand Lodge for 1875.
53. Copy of the Seal of the M. W. Grand Lodge.
54. Proceedings of Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1872-3.
55. Proceedings of Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1873-4.
56. Proceedings of Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Rhode Island for 1867-9.
57. Proceedings of Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Rhode Island, 1872-3-4.
58. By-Laws of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in the town of Providence.
59. By-Laws of Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 4.
60. By-Laws of What Cheer Lodge, No. 21.
61. By-Laws of Corinthian Lodge, No. 27.
62. Copy of Freemasons' Repository, June, 1875.
63. Copy of music sung at Peace Jubilee, 1872, containing also the music sung at the laying of this corner-stone.
64. Copy of the music sung at the laying of the corner-stone of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.
65. Copy of music sung at the dedication of the same.

The box containing the foregoing articles, which was made of copper, tin-lined, nine inches wide, seventeen inches in length, and eleven inches in depth, was encased in a lead casket, and was placed by the grand treasurer, during solemn music by the band, in a cavity in the stone upon which the corner-stone rests,—the corner-stone being the stone on the front of the building, at the corner of Washington street and Dorrance street, and is the section of the plinth moulding adjacent to the corner section which extends up Washington street.

The working tools of the order having been presented to the appropriate officers, the grand master, accompanied by

the deputy grand master, grand wardens and grand chaplain, approached the corner-stone and spread the cement under it, and during solemn music by the band the stone was lowered to its place, stopping twice on its way. At each stop a gun was fired, the grand honors being given at the same time, and repeated when the stone reached its proper position.

PRAYER BY THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.

O, Thou Infinite and Holy One, God over all blessed forever, our Father and our Friend, we rejoice in Thee as our Creator, Ruler and Judge. We rejoice in Thee as the source of life and the foundation of all good. At this time in the midst of our solemn ceremonies we pause to lift to Thee our desires and our aspirations, our acknowledgments for blessings conferred, and our petitions for future good. May Thy spirit, grace and wisdom direct and attend us now and always. We invoke Thy blessing upon the craft here assembled, upon the grand master of masons and those associated with him in authority, upon the honored executive head of the city, and others who have large influence and assist in the management of our municipality. May they all be directed by true wisdom and discretion, that their work may result in the carrying forward of the best interests of this community. O Father, let thy blessings rest upon these solemn services. Grant that those who have charge of the building of this edifice, the foundation stone of which has just been laid, may carry forward their work successfully; that here may be reared an edifice to rejoice all eyes, one for us to look upon and admire. May Thy grace rule our fraternity, and inspire all hearts with wisdom and love, so that the brethren may be drawn together more and more closely by the influence of our beloved institution. We invoke Thy blessing in behalf of this city, and for all who reside here, and pray that Thou wouldst direct those who rule and those who serve. Preserve from accident the workmen who shall labor here. Let Thy

spirit rule and direct all hearts. Sanctify this occasion to our individual and common good. And Thine be the glory and praise forever. Amen.

After prayer and singing, the square, level and plumb were severally applied to the stone by the proper officers, who reported to the grand master that the work had been skillfully done. The grand master then approached the stone, and giving it three blows with his gavel, a gun being fired at each blow, said :

"The craftsmen having faithfully and skillfully performed their duty, I now declare the corner-stone to be *well formed, true and trusty*, laid by us in ample and ancient form, as the foundation of a building to be used by the municipal government of the City of Providence for the purposes of the municipality."

The deputy grand master poured corn upon the stone, saying :

"May the Grand Architect of the Universe strengthen and sustain the craftsmen while engaged in this important work ; and may he ever bountifully vouchsafe the corn of nourishment to all employed in honest and useful toil."

The grand senior warden poured wine upon the stone, and said :

"May the Great Giver of all good, enable the craftsmen in due time to complete this noble building ; and during their intervals from labor may they constantly be blessed with that refreshment of which this wine is emblematical, and may the government of this city be abundantly prospered in all their efforts for the good of their fellow-men."

The grand junior warden poured oil upon the stone, and said :

"May the blessing of Heaven descend upon this and all good works ; and may our loved fraternity long exist to pour forth the oil of joy upon the hearts of the widowed, the fatherless, and the distressed."

The grand master then said :

" May the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe continue to protect and bless this city ; may He prosper the laudable works of all its inhabitants ; may He protect the workmen employed on this building from every accident, and long preserve it from decay ; may He grant to us all an ever-bountiful supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy ; and may this goodly city, where the pure principles of religious liberty were first proclaimed on this continent, exist in peace and prosperity through future generations."

Nine guns were fired, by three times three.

The grand master returned the working tools to the architect, saying :

" My brother, having as grand master of masons laid the corner-stone of this structure, I now return to you these implements of your profession, congratulating you upon being selected for the position you hold, with full confidence that under your direction this building will raise its beautiful proportions, a proud monument of your skill and of the munificence of our city."

In obedience to the order of the grand master, the grand marshal made proclamation as follows :

" By order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Rhode Island, I now proclaim the corner-stone of the City Hall of the City of Providence, to be laid in ample and ancient form, according to the customs and usages of Free and Accepted Masons. This proclamation I make once, twice, thrice, in the South, in the West, and in the East."

Then was sung the chorus beginning :

" Glorious is thy name, Almighty Lord,  
Glorious is thy name, O Lord,  
Glorious is thy name, Almighty Lord."

Following the oration delivered by General Horatio Rogers, was sung the hymn, " Hail, Masonry divine," and after the benediction by the grand chaplain, the procession was again formed and returned to Masons' Hall, under escort of Calvary Commandery, No. 13, of Providence.

# ORATION

BY

GENERAL HORATIO ROGERS.





## ORATION.

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MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER, MR. MAYOR, AND  
FELLOW CITIZENS :

Christian piety was the corner-stone of this community. The name our city bears was conferred on the embryo town, nearly two hundred and forty years ago, in grateful recognition of the Providence of God. Such names of some of our streets as Benefit, Benevolent, and Hope, attest the faith of our ancestors. Here Roger Williams and his five companions realized that perfect freedom of the soul they had crossed the ocean to seek, but, hitherto, had sought in vain. Here, long subsequently, was the haven of refuge for sufferers for conscience's sake—the objects of persecution from those who had themselves been persecuted, and who should thus have learned by their own sufferings the Divine precept of doing unto others as they would have others do unto them. When that handful of exiles landed on yonder shore, almost within sight of where we stand, the red man haunted the primeval forest that shaded them, and the waters of the Seekonk, the Mooshausick, and the Woonasquatucket, ran to the sea unvexed by the devices of industry.

There are certain crises in municipal, as in human affairs, when it is healthful to indulge in some reflections on the past, and in some anticipations for the future. When our municipality, therefore, is just completing its first hundred thousand inhabitants, when it is realizing a fuller measure of prosperity than it has ever before attained, and when it is

about to rear for its officers and servants new and more elegant accommodations, as well as a fitting monument to its thrift, it may not be amiss to pause for a moment and weave together a few threads of fact, that we may remember the name our beloved city bears, and that we may be reminded of its appropriateness now, as well as on the day of its first application.

Though allusion has been made to the founding of the city, I must dwell again upon the grand fundamental principle that drew its early settlers hither, for it is the boast and pride of every true Rhode Islander that his little commonwealth, yea, this very spot our eyes now scan, was the birth-place and cradle of soul-liberty. These are the words of Governor Winthrop, in speaking of our founders: "At their first coming thither, Mr. Williams and the rest did make an order that no man should be molested for his conscience." The code of 1647 established for the colony of Providence Plantations contains nothing relating to religion, and it closes with this significant declaration: "These are the laws that concern all men, and these are the penalties for the transgression thereof, which, by common consent, are ratified and established throughout the whole colony; and otherwise than thus what is herein forbidden, all men may walk as their consciences persuade them, every one in the fear of his God. And let the saints of the Most High walk in this colony without molestation, in the name of Jehovah, their God, forever and ever." At another time this language was used: "Freedom of different consciences to be protected from enforcement was the principal ground of our charter, \* \* \* which freedom we still prize as the greatest happiness men can possess in this world." Such were our founders:

"Just men they seemed and all their study bent  
To worship God aright."

Such, also, was the foundation principle of this little colony.

Its utterance was the key-note of freedom throughout the world. In time it penetrated Massachusetts, which had banished our founders for promulgating it. In time, likewise, it pervaded the United Colonies that had once urged us to expel the Quakers from our bounds. Now, it has become a part of the great common law of all civilized nations. Surely, this was an auspicious beginning for a free people.

Though such regard was paid to things sacred, secular affairs did not escape the most sturdy attention. Some of our citizens, perhaps, who remain away from the polls and then criticise and carp at the officers elected, may be interested in the fact that during the very first year of the settlement of this community, a fine was imposed on every person absent from any town meeting; it being made the duty of him "who keeps the books in that month," as the record tells us, "to observe and take notice who is wanting, and present his name to the town." On the other hand, Mr. Mayor, it may reconcile you and some of your brother officials to the cares and responsibilities of office, by remembering that before the town was twenty years of age, it passed a law declaring all the inhabitants, though not admitted freemen, liable to be elected to office, and finable for not serving if elected.

The little town thus planted in exile, was long buffeted by untoward circumstances. At one time the annalist tells us that dissension prevailed within it; at another, during King Philip's war, that the fear of Indian depredations drove many of its inhabitants away. In 1676 the savages succeeded in burning many houses here, and the town records were damaged by fire and then thrown into the river to prevent their total destruction. Whoever is familiar with them will recall that they still bear the marks of that perilous hour. A comparison of a few statistics of the population and material wealth of Providence in its earlier days, with those of some of the other towns of the State, will afford gratifying food

for reflection, when we likewise compare what they then were, with what they are now. In 1708, the date of the first census that survives to us, the population of the whole State was 7,181, divided so far as the three most populous towns were concerned, as follows: Newport, 2,203; Providence, 1,446; and Kingstown, 1,200. Let us stride over a few score years before taking another view, thus coming to the very eve of the Revolutionary War. In 1774, the whole State numbered 59,678 inhabitants, of which this town had but 4,321, while Newport had more than twice that number, and Scituate lacked but 720, and Gloucester but 1,376 of equaling the population of Providence. But for the incontrovertible fact, who now would believe that the quiet, rural towns of Scituate and Gloucester had ever crowded so hard upon what has become this great and populous city? The Revolution seemed to have been the turning point in the race for priority, and seven years after the close of that eventful struggle when the effects of it had begun to be realized, the census of 1790 shows that by the decline of one and the advance of the other, Newport had but 336 more inhabitants than Providence, the population of both then being between six thousand and seven thousand, while South Kingstown and Gloucester, the two next most populous towns, had each but a few more than four thousand souls. After this Providence steadily increased in numbers, distancing all competitors in the State, and now, summing up a full hundred thousand inhabitants, thus outnumbering by scores of thousands all her sister towns, she feels herself to be *facile princeps*.

Figures are stubborn facts, and tell their tale with plain unvarnished truth. If, without wearying you, I may marshal a few more statistics before your minds, we shall find the relative proportion of this town's share of the whole State or Colony tax fraught with still greater interest. In October, 1668, of a tax of £300, Newport paid £136, Portsmouth £68, Jamestown and New Shoreham each £29, Kingstown

£16, and Providence but £10. Nearly a century later, in 1755, during the Old French War, of a Colony tax of £70,000, Newport paid £14,000, South Kingstown £5,200, and Providence £4,900. If any of our tax-payers repine at their municipal burdens, and wonder if there ever was a time when taxes were low, they have only in fancy to transport themselves back a hundred and sixty years, for prior to 1717 our town tax rarely exceeded \$300; in that year it was \$750; but in 1749 it had increased to \$8,000, and in 1757 to \$15,000. Such visionaries, however, must remember that they are turning the hands of time backward, and that then, no noble structures here reared themselves on high, no crowded streets were filled with the hustle of trade, and that private enterprise and the successful accumulation of wealth had not made the demand for great public improvements which always precede and stimulate municipal activity, and therefore municipal taxation, and which are the surest index of private, and hence also of public prosperity and thrift.

It is a grateful feeling that the present is the highest point of success thus far attained, for now there are no regrets for a culmination already past, and only the brightest anticipations for the future. For this dear city the tide of wealth, power, and prosperity is still on the flood. In the lapse of time, it is true, the course of its industries has somewhat changed. The keels of its whalers no longer plough the Arctic Ocean. The teas of China, the spices of the Indies, and the ivory of Africa, are no longer brought direct to its wharves. The sails of its merchantmen no longer whiten every sea. But where one industrial pursuit has forsaken us, scores of others have taken its place. The whirling spindle and the flying shuttle furnish unceasing music of industry. All kinds of machinery are made here in the utmost perfection. At this very moment there is building within our limits one of the largest stationary engines ever constructed, and which is to furnish power at the approach-

ing centennial celebration of the greatest republic of the world. Our locomotives haul the cars of different nations. A foreign power is now arming at our workshops. The mechanics of the whole country send hither their orders for screws. The women of every clime bedeck their persons and supplement their charms with the jewelry of our artisans; and the marvelous elegance of our silver ware excites the admiration of the most refined tastes throughout our continent. In brief, so extensive and so various are the industries of this community, that our skill and our labor produce alike the most ponderous machines and the most delicate mechanisms, the implements of war, and the ornaments of peace.

Though this is a period of prolonged and unexampled industrial prostration, yet our streets have never before exhibited a more rapid approach to that city-like compactness and completeness which all desire may at sometime be attained. Imposing business structures and substantial warehouses everywhere meet the eye. The homes of our people are comfortable, and many of them are famed for their ample dimensions and generous hospitality. Numerous bridges span our rivers. Spacious hospitals alleviate the maladies of both body and mind. An abundant supply of pure water flows into our houses and past our doors. The perfection of our police and our fire departments minister at once to our pride, and to our protection. Many costly school houses are provided for the education of our children; and an university crowns the hill, shedding over us its benignant and refining influences. One thing, however, is lacking. Nowhere do we find an adequate, visible embodiment of the government of the city. When Athens was the State, the historian tells us, "The citizen was everywhere to be reminded of the majesty of the State—his patriotism was increased by the pride in her beauty—his taste was elevated by the spectacle of her splendor." Enter what city of Europe you will, be its palaces ever so numerous, or so splendid, you

cannot fail to be struck with the beauty and the grandeur of its Hotel de Ville, or City Hall. After beholding it you will be impressed with the dignity and the power it represents.

Fellow citizens! We are about to repair our great deficiency. With imposing ceremonies we have witnessed the laying of the corner-stone of our municipal temple. We have seen poured upon it, corn, wine, and oil—emblems of nourishment, refreshment, and joy. God grant that there may mingle with them, concord, harmony, and peace.

Our ancestors were simple men with frugal habits, and the various accommodations, from time to time provided for our public affairs, afford at once an indication of their character, and an illustration of the growth of the place. In our earlier years the town meetings were held in the open air. The annual town meeting in June, 1676, we find, was holden "before Thomas Field's house, under a tree by the water-side," near what is now the corner of South Main and Crawford streets. Later, the Friends' meeting-house was called into requisition. In 1730, the town united with the county in building a modest county house, forty by thirty feet square, conditioned that the town meetings should be holden there. After resorting to various expedients, however, for a place for holding town meetings, the town council meanwhile meeting at private houses and public taverns in a very itinerant sort of way, the old town house on the corner of College and Benefit streets was purchased, in 1794, of the Congregational Society, for the meetings of the town, and, at the same time, the town directed the town clerk to keep his office in the market house chambers, and the town council to hold its meetings there. Thus matters continued for more than half a century. At last, to make room for the public authorities, the masons were ousted from the third story of the market house, which they had been permitted to add in 1797. A little over twenty years ago, this lot, on which we stand, was procured, and it was proposed that a City Hall should be erected here. Forthwith arose a grand municipal



uproar, and the question of a City Hall, like a veritable apple of Discord, convulsed the councils of the city. One measure of opposition to the project was the expulsion of the butchers from the basement and first floor of the market house, and adapting the whole building to public uses. This device quieted the opposing factions for a season, but the vexed question soon again agitated the community. Two years ago the city council, not without the strongest opposition, voted that this lot should be cleared by a day certain; while the last council firmly and courageously brushed all obstacles aside, ordered and accepted plans, elected commissioners, and directed that the City Hall should be built, to use its own phrase, "forthwith." Thus ended one of the most bitter and protracted controversies ever known in this community. The opponents of the measure, to whose honesty of purpose let all justice be conceded, can at least congratulate themselves upon rendering an invaluable service by the delay they caused, as now a more suitable edifice will be erected than would otherwise have been the case. Placed as this is, within a few hundred feet of the geographical centre of the city, no section can complain of partiality or injustice in its location. In massive beauty will its walls arise. The hurrying traveller can admire its harmonious proportions as he speeds on his journey. The busy citizen need not go out of his course to visit it, presiding, as it will, in grace and grandeur, at the head of our largest and most central square. At once the most spacious, the most elegant, and the most costly edifice in the community, it will minister solely to the pride of no one alone, but of all alike; and it will furnish you, Mr. Mayor, and your honorable associates in the government, which represents us all, accommodations consonant with the honor and dignity of the offices you hold.

I need not describe this building, for, fellow citizens, as it belongs to you all, the plans have ever been, and now are, open to the inspection of each one of you. Then, too, the progress already achieved, affords the most gratifying assur-

ance that your commissioners are mindful of the peremptory instructions of the body that made them, to "forthwith" proceed to the erection of this long wished for structure. Your own eyes, therefore, will speedily afford you the most satisfactory information as to its details.

The city, at last, has set a fitting example to the citizens in beautifying the place, in which all have a common interest and a common pride. "Give us what is good and what is beautiful," was the Spartan prayer. If the genius of our government does not permit the ornamenting our avenues and squares at the public expense, as in the cities of the old world, why should not every private fortune made here contribute from its abundance a statue or a fountain for the public ornament and the public good? In this way our city could be adorned. In this way the forms and lineaments of our great men would inspire the people with patriotism and virtue, while the names of the donors suitably inscribed upon the pedestals would go down to posterity in gratitude and affection.

Fellow citizens, my task is done. If I have dwelt too much at length upon the piety and godliness of our founders, it was in the hope of exciting your admiration to an imitation of their example. If I have wearied you with the statistics of our earlier years, it was to remind you of our wonderful growth from the small beginnings whence we sprung. If I have lingered too long upon the present wealth of our industries and upon our expansive development, it was to impress you with a grateful sense of the goodness conferred upon us.

May we never forget that Divine Providence which named us in the wilderness, which reared us in adversity, and which has showered so many blessings upon us; and, fellow citizens, may it never forget us.



ACTION OF CITY COUNCIL

PRIOR TO

DEDICATION.



## ACTION OF CITY COUNCIL

PRIOR TO

## DEDICATION.

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At the first meeting of the city council held after the laying of the corner-stone of the city hall, the following resolutions were passed, and received the approval of the mayor on the 12th day of July, 1875 :

"RESOLVED, That the thanks of the city council of the city of Providence are hereby tendered to the grand lodge of free and accepted masons, for their services in the ceremonies of laying the corner-stone of the new city hall, and to General Horatio Rogers for his able and eloquent oration.

"RESOLVED, That alderman Metcalf, with Messrs. Douglas, Hayward and Pettis, of the common council, are hereby appointed a committee to wait upon General Rogers and request a copy of his oration, and to cause the same, with the proceedings of the occasion, to be printed for the use of the city council."

September 30th, of the same year, a committee consisting of Messrs. Abner J. Barnaby, Dexter B. Lewis, and William Y. Potter, of the common council, with Hon. Thomas A. Doyle, mayor, and alderman Addison Q. Fisher, were authorized and directed to procure the proper furniture for, and to

furnish the new city hall ; and the sum of fifty thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose.

Subsequently councilman Henry L. Parsons was added to the committee, and December 7, 1877, alderman William S. Hayward was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Addison Q. Fisher. Dexter B. Lewis also resigned his position March 17, 1878, when the city council added alderman Edmund W. Raynsford and councilmen Stillman White, J. Lewis Peirce, James C. Goff, Charles E. Carpenter, James B. Winsor and Silas A. Sweet to the committee on furniture.

On the 26th day of March, 1876, a vacancy was made in the board of commissioners to build the city hall, by the death of Hon. James Y. Smith, notice thereof being communicated to the city council by the mayor the day following his death.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, March 27, 1876. }

*Gentlemen of the City Council :*

The Honorable James Y. Smith died at his residence in this city, yesterday morning.

Seldom, if ever, has it happened to one man in this city to have filled so many positions of public trust as Mr. Smith was called to occupy ; every duty of which was performed with the most exact fidelity.

He was Governor of the state from 1863 to 1866, and was Mayor of Providence from June 4, 1855, to June 29, 1857.

At the time of his decease, he was a member of the school committee from the second ward ; a commissioner of the Dexter Donation, to which office he had been annually elected, with the exception of a single year, since June, 1855 ; a member of the board of commissioners of the cove lands ; a member of the board of commissioners of sinking funds ; a commissioner to superintend the erection of the city hall,

and a trustee under the mortgage of the Providence and Springfield Railroad Company.

His name is rarely found recorded as absent from a session of these bodies, and in this respect he has left an example worthy of imitation.

His death is not only a great loss to the city in which he lived, but many of the largest business interests, both at home and abroad, will miss his wise and prudent counsels.

The charitable organizations of this city have lost a liberal friend, and the poor a generous benefactor.

Of him it may be truly said, a friend to the friendless, a helper to the helpless, and an honest man, has passed from earth.

I recommend, as a mark of respect for his memory, that the several departments of the government be closed, from ten o'clock, A. M., until two o'clock, P. M., on the day of his burial, and that the municipal government attend the funeral ceremonies.

THOMAS A. DOYLE, Mayor.

The message of the mayor having been read, the city council unanimously adopted the following resolution :—

"RESOLVED, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable James Y. Smith, ex-governor of the state and ex-mayor of the city, the several departments of the city government be closed on Wednesday, the 29th inst., from ten o'clock, A. M., until two o'clock, P. M., the day of the funeral of the deceased ; and that the officers of the city government attend the funeral ceremonies."

April 6, 1876, George H. Corliss tendered to the city council his resignation as a member of the commission, which was accepted on the 13th day of the same month, when the city council proceeded to elect Seth Padelford and Amos C. Barstow to fill the vacancies caused by the death of Mr. Smith and the resignation of Mr. Corliss



In recognition of the services rendered by George H. Corliss, the city council unanimously passed the following resolution :

"RESOLVED, That, regretting the necessity which has compelled the Hon. George H. Corliss to resign the office of city hall commissioner, the city council hereby tenders to him the thanks of the city, for the able and valuable services rendered by him as such commissioner."

April 19, 1876, the mayor presented to the city council the following message :

MAYOR'S OFFICE,  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, April 19, 1876. }

*Gentlemen of the City Council :*

I have received and transmit herewith, the declinations of Hon. Amos C. Barstow and Hon. Seth Padelford, to accept the positions upon the commission to build a city hall, to which they were elected by concurrent vote of the two branches of the city council.

It is a matter of public regret that these gentlemen cannot serve the city in the manner proposed.

THOMAS A. DOYLE, Mayor.

PROVIDENCE, April 15, 1876.

*Hon. Thomas A. Doyle, Mayor :*

DEAR SIR :—I notice by the public papers, that the city council has done me the honor of electing me a member of the board of commissioners to build a city hall.

It was my fortune, as chairman of a committee of the city council, to purchase the lot for this use, and also to present the first plans for a hall to be erected on it. Though twenty-one years have elapsed, I still feel a lively interest in the enterprise,—an interest which I would gladly illustrate by accepting this appointment, had not these years brought

with them a burden of cares, largely of a public nature, fully taxing my time, and often crowding my strength.

I beg you, therefore, to tender to the city council, with my respectful declination of the trust, the assurance of my gratitude for this new expression of its confidence.

Yours, truly,

A. C. BARSTOW.

PROVIDENCE, April 17, 1876.

*Hon. Thomas A. Doyle, Mayor, etc. :*

DEAR SIR :—I feel very grateful for the confidence placed in me by the city council, in electing me a commissioner for the building of a city hall, in place of the Hon. James Y. Smith, deceased. I fully appreciate the importance of the trust, and the unwearied care and faithfulness necessary in the performance of its duties. I have made arrangements to be absent during a part of the time which would require my presence here, if I accepted the trust in good faith.

I must, therefore, respectfully decline the same.

Yours, respectfully,

SETH PADEFORD.

April 27, 1876, Henry G. Russell and William M. Bailey were elected commissioners to fill the existing vacancies, and the board organized on the 4th day of May following, by the election of William G. R. Mowry as chairman.

June 3, 1878, the mayor notified the city council that it was anticipated that the city hall would be ready for occupancy before the end of the year, and recommended that a committee be appointed to make the necessary arrangements for appropriate services of dedication to be held when it was completed. Acting upon the suggestion of the mayor, a committee of arrangements was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Henry R. Barker, Jerothmul B. Barnaby and Charles

E. Carpenter, of the common council, with aldermen Elisha C. Mowry and George I. Chace.

The committee appointed to make the arrangements for proper services at the dedication, organized by the election of Henry R. Barker, chairman, and extended the following invitation to Hon. Abraham Payne to deliver the oration :

PROVIDENCE, July 26, 1878.

*Hon. Abraham Payne :*

DEAR SIR :—The new city hall is to be dedicated sometime in October, and I am instructed by the joint special committee of the city council to make arrangements therefor, consisting of Prof. Chace, Messrs. Henry R. Barker, J. B. Barnaby, Charles E. Carpenter and myself, to invite you to deliver the address on the occasion. It is the intention of the council to have the dedication in keeping with the character of the building ; and it is the unanimous opinion of the committee that no person now living who has been connected with the city government is capable of doing greater honor to the occasion than yourself.

Please inform me at your earliest possible convenience whether your business engagements and inclination will allow us to name you as the orator of the occasion.

Very respectfully, etc.,

E. C. MOWRY.

PROFILE HOUSE, N. H., July 30, 1878.

*E. C. Mowry, Esq. :*

DEAR SIR :—I received yours of the 26th, last evening, and am gratified by the invitation which it contains. Being out of practice in work of this kind, and my hands being rather full of professional work just now, I have had some hesitation in accepting, but, rashly perhaps, have decided to

try. Please express my thanks to the committee for the honor implied in their invitation. Excuse an informal reply to your kind note.

Very truly yours,

ABRAHAM PAYNE.

October 29, 1878, was fixed by the city council for the day of dedication, which was subsequently postponed to Thursday, November 14, 1878.



## THE DEDICATION.



## THE DEDICATION.

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On Thursday, November 14, 1878, the city council and invited guests assembled at the old city building on Market square, and at 10.30 o'clock, A. M., a procession was formed under the direction of Henry V. A. Joslin, Chief Marshal, in the following order, and marched to the city hall by the way of Westminster and Dorrance streets :

**Police Skirmishers.**

Chief Marshal, Henry V. A. Joslin.

**Aids.**

William W. Nichols, Aurion V. Chevers.

American Band, D. W. Reeves, leader.

Police Department of Providence, under command of Deputy Chief,  
John T. Brown.

**COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE CITY HALL.**

Henry R. Barker, Chairman. Jerothmul B. Barnaby, Charles E. Carpenter, Ellsha C. Mowry, George I. Chace.

**CITY HALL COMMISSIONERS.**

William G. R. Mowry, Chairman, Henry G. Russell and William M. Bailey.

Clerk of the Commissioners, Daniel W. Vaughan.

Architect, Samuel J. F. Thayer.

Superintendent, Sumner P. Brown.

**ORATOR.**

Hon. Abraham Payne.

**THE CHAPLAINS OF THE DAY.**

Rev. E. G. Robinson, D. D., and the Rt. Rev. T. F. Hendricken, D. D.

**COMMITTEE TO PROCURE PLANS FOR THE CITY HALL.**

Abner J. Barnaby, Chairman.\* Councilmen Sturgis P. Carpenter, Archibald

B. Rice, Raymond G. Place, George H. Pettis, and Henry A. Cory.

Aldermen Addison Q. Fisher, Abner H. Angell, and William V. Daboll.

\* Mr. Barnaby was also chairman of the committee to procure furniture for the city hall.



## THE CITY HALL.

## COMMITTEE TO PROCURE FURNITURE FOR THE CITY HALL.

Messrs. Stillman White, J. Lewis Peirce, James C. Goff, James B. Winsor, Silas A. Sweet, William Y. Potter, from the Council, and Messrs. Edmund W. Raynsford and William S. Hayward, from the Board of Aldermen.

## THE CITY SERGEANT.

Edward S. Rhodes.

## HIS HONOR THE MAYOR.

Thomas A. Doyle.

## EX-MAYORS.

Amos C. Barstow, Jabez C. Knight, George L. Clarke, and Edward P. Knowles.

## EX-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

George P. Tew

## EX-PRESIDENTS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.

James C. Hidden, John N. Francis, Nelson W. Aldrich, Nicholas Van Slyck, Horatio Rogers, Francis Colwell.

## THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN:\*

William S. Hayward, President.

Elisha C. Mowry,	George T. Spicer,	Nicholas A. Fenner,
George I. Chace,	William Spencer,	Duttee Wilcox,
Benjamin W. Persons,	Robert E. Smith,	Edmund W. Raynsford.

Samuel W. Brown, City Clerk, and Clerk of the Board.

## THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL:

Charles P. Robinson, President.

Stillman White,	Henry B. Franklin,	James B. Winsor,
Elisha S. Aldrich,	James McNally,	Raymond G. Place,
John P. Cooney,	John W. Briggs,	Silas A. Sweet,
Joseph Whelden,	Thomas J. Hill,	Edmund S. Hopkins,
James Lewis Peirce,	Charles E. Carpenter,	Leonard F. Joslin,
J. Carter B. Woods,	William Cyrus Barker,	George A. Rickard,
Jeremiah S. Parish,	Thomas M. Rounds,	William W. Brayton,
Thomas A. Millett,	Stephen C. Arnold,	Henry R. Barker,
Arthur F. Dexter,	Daniel E. Day,	William H. Shattuck,
James C. Goff,	George H. Burnham,	Joseph F. Brown,
Arnold Green,	Jerothmul B. Barnaby,	John M. Brennan,
Charles F. Sampson,	Andrew Winsor,	John Behan,
George A. Steere,	Frederick M. Ballou,	Harrison G. Macomber.

Joshua M. Addeman, Clerk.

\* All the members of the board of aldermen and common council for 1878 are here printed as a matter of record, though several of them marched in the position assigned to the committees of which they were also members.

United States officials.  
 State officials.  
 City officials.  
 Ex-members of the Board of Aldermen.  
 Ex-members of the Common Council.  
 Other invited guests.

On the arrival of the procession at the city hall, the police formed in two ranks at open order from the main entrance to the door of the council chamber, and the remainder of the procession marched into, and took the seats on the floor of the council chamber. The balcony was reserved for ladies.

Henry R. Barker, Esq., chairman of the committee of arrangements, presided, and announced the following order of exercises :

## ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Music,	AMERICAN BAND.
Description of the building,	SAMUEL J. F. THAYER.
Music,	AMERICAN BAND.
Presentation of keys,	
WILLIAM G. R. MOWRY, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF CITY HALL COMMISSION.	
Response,	HIS HONOR THOMAS A. DOYLE, MAYOR.
Music,	AMERICAN BAND.
Dedicatory Prayer,	REV. E. G. ROBINSON, D. D.
Music,	AMERICAN BAND.
Oration,	HON. ABRAHAM PAYNE.
Music,	AMERICAN BAND.
Prayer and Benediction,	RT. REV. T. F. HENDRICKEN, D. D.

After appropriate music by the band, Mr. Thayer, the architect, was introduced by the chairman, and gave a description of the building, as follows :—

*Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the City Hall Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

On the 12th of September, 1874, I received the following telegram :

“ Come to Providence by first train.

ABNER J. BARNABY, *Chairman.*”

From that moment to this, my connection with this work has been close and continuous. A little more than a month

later I was invited by the first commission to confer with them, and directly afterward was duly appointed architect.

Work was commenced without delay. The peculiar exigencies of the situation at that time demanded of all the agents of the city the utmost effort to carry into execution this public work, which, I am informed, had been mooted for nearly thirty years.

The ground upon which this building stands is of artificial formation, and few massive structures stand upon so treacherous and variable a base. The soundings and borings which we caused to be made, developed the fact that the safest levels varied from seventeen to forty-seven feet below mean high water mark.

Those familiar with building will at once understand the profound study and care required to successfully construct a sub-structure carrying thirty-six thousand tons. We present you a completed building, to-day, absolutely without a fracture from settlement.

During this and all the subsequent work your city has had the benefit of the services of Mr. Sumner P. Brown, who has had the immediate oversight of the work, and to whose sound judgment and capacity both you and I are indebted.

The foundations are composed of three thousand one hundred and twenty-eight piles, driven into hard-pan at the various satisfactory levels found, and cut off at two and fifty one-hundredths feet below high water, thus securing their constant submersion, which is a condition of permanency; above this and to the sidewalk level are walls of block granite. The superstructure is of cut granite, backed by a vaulted brick wall in all its external parts, and in its interior by similar walls of brick alone. These, as a rule, are of great thickness, and secure lateral strength, a fundamental principle of sound building. The floors throughout are built with iron beams or girders, rolled beams for the smaller, and girders of plate and angle iron for the larger spans. The spaces between are filled with brick arches. The roof and dome

are unique, but not experimental in their construction. Upright rafters carry purlins of T iron, in which are fitted slabs of concrete; these are covered with slate and copper, according to their slope; its form is exceedingly simple, and is a perfect water-shed for the building.

The general plan of the building is simple and organic, a rectangle of one hundred and thirty-four by one hundred and sixty feet, divided by four intersecting walls, forming the central hall in the middle, and business apartments on the outer lines. While this arrangement has been criticised as wasteful of area, it should be remembered that the building is too large to be successfully lighted in its central part in any other way. The plan admits of the application of the simplest and soundest principles of construction. It is popularly supposed that the plans have been largely changed; as a matter of fact the plan is the same as presented to the committee of your city government in 1874, with only modification of detail and assignment. No vital part has been changed. Such changes as have been made were sure to come in any undertaking of magnitude intended for the accommodation of so many and so varied uses. The "promise of ultimate perfection," given in the report of the committee of 1874, we sincerely hope may be realized when all the departments of the government are in operation in the building.

The architectural character I have undertaken to give this building is a simple rendering of the renaissance, adopted because of its natural tending to symmetrical arrangements, and the fact that in the chief capitols of the world this style has been most widely adopted for civic and monumental edifices. Great pains have been taken to make it plain and enduring. In its exterior, decorative work has been sparingly used, but when used, careful drawings and models have been prepared, to adapt the detail to the hard, unyielding character of the material. Therefore, you will see in its pediments and capitals coarser and stronger work than would

be used in a softer stone. Books have been studied ; authorities consulted ; we have tried to produce you a building which, in time, at least, shall command your respect.

The interior is, of course, in harmony with the exterior, with much greater elaboration of detail, and a decided change to color treatment. The general plan I have already described. Noticeable, I think, is the orderly and spacious arrangement of all the apartments, the corridors, and the public room. The points of support are marked, and are never disturbed in their power. Here, as elsewhere, we have taken pains to do our best, and are indebted to intelligent artisans for the skillful manner in which our projects have been executed. Notwithstanding the apparent elaboration of the interior, we shall claim that the effects produced came from the subordination of parts to the whole. Real quality has been sought. I will illustrate by stating that the room in which we now are, is, beneath your feet, on all sides and overhead, of solid masonry. No fragile or uncertain materials are used.

Ground was broken in October, 1874, and from that time forward the work has been executed as rapidly as its magnitude would permit, and with few exceptions has been continuous. The first commission directed and aided me in a manner that enabled me to perform my professional duties with great satisfaction. My relations with its honored chairman, Gov. Smith, were necessarily intimate. I am sure others in this service will do him better honor than I can, but I do say a more earnest and capable servant the public could not have. The gentlemen of the late commission, have, in common with the first, had no holiday task. With the frequent opposition of the city council, with a strong minority if not an actual majority of the public against the project, it has been an epic of trouble. All these gentlemen have my profoundest thanks for their co-operation, for their courtesy and kindness. By these and their act appointing me, I shall be able to point to a work that I warmly hope

will prove useful and beneficial to this community, whose enterprise and intelligence deserve the best work of its servants, head and hand.

During the progress of the work I was honored by your committee on furniture, by being employed to supervise the furniture and the fittings. The laborious work they have done I am sure will commend itself. The utmost prudence and business attention has been used, and we present you complete and useful furniture for a minimum expenditure.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Thayer's address, another selection was rendered by the band, after which Mr. Mowry, chairman of the city hall commission, was introduced, and presented the key of the building to the mayor, speaking as follows :—

*Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens :*

On the 5th day of October, 1874, the city council created a commission to build a new city hall, electing as the members thereof, the late James Y. Smith, George H. Corliss, and its present chairman ; and on the third day following, passed an ordinance prescribing their duties. Having organized by the choice of Gov. Smith as chairman, the commissioners proceeded at once to the task before them. Proposals for the foundation were immediately issued, and the work was pushed forward with such vigor that, within ninety days of the taking of the oath prescribed for the commissioners, all the principal contracts, that is to say, contracts for the granite work, for the brick, lime and cement, for the laying of the same, and for the iron work were let out, and the work on the building itself was rapidly progressing. The commissioners have striven through evil and through good report, to perform faithfully the great task imposed upon them. That task has been no holiday task ; and the position of the commissioners, fettered as they have been by restrictions and technicalities, and harassed by the opposition and

unfriendly criticism to which they have been constantly subjected, has often been far from an agreeable one. But now, at the end of four years, they have accomplished their work, and we are, to-day, assembled within the completed edifice. It would be impossible in the prosecution of a work of such magnitude to avoid mistakes and oversights, and your commissioners are sensible that they have not entirely steered clear of them. But whatever mistakes or oversights may be chargeable to them, no one who at all knows whereof he speaks, can say that any member of the commission from the beginning, either in accepting his appointment or in the prosecution of the work, has been actuated by motives selfish, improper or inconsistent with the public good. It is a source of regret that the building has not been finished within the original estimates, a fact owing in great part to changes in the original plan deemed necessary or desirable by the city council as the work advanced. Had there been an earnest, cordial, unanimous co-operation on the part of the government throughout the entire work, your commissioners believe that a large saving could have been made in the cost. As it is, they believe that no public building can be found in the country that can make a better showing for the expenditure incurred.

Throughout the whole work they have had the earnest, active, and enthusiastic co-operation and services of the architect, whose careful attention and sound judgment have enabled them to erect the building without a single failure in construction. The building itself, in its plan, finish and decoration, utters a more fitting, eloquent and impressive tribute to his ability, taste and skill, than it would be possible to utter in words. In the superintendent, Mr. Sumner P. Brown, who has been over the work from the beginning, the commissioners have had a most watchful and efficient coadjutor.

More than two years ago the original commission was broken by the decease of Gov. Smith, and the retirement of

Mr. Corliss. In the loss of these two able men, both the commission and the city were unfortunate. Great credit is due to each; but it is not too much to say that it was mainly to the persistent and untiring energy, the great practical skill, and the large experience of Gov. Smith as a builder, that the rapid progress of the work, in its earlier stages, is attributable. And now, Mr. Mayor, the commissioners gladly lay down the burden which came to them unsought, and deliver these keys to you as the chief executive of the city.

To these remarks Mayor Doyle made the following response :—

• *Gentlemen of the City Hall Commission :*

To serve the public is not always an agreeable task, and your experience as commissioners has proved this truth.

You have alluded to the restrictions which have been imposed upon you, and the opposition with which you have been met in your endeavors to protect the interests of the city; but these things are incident to the public service, and you have not swerved from what you regarded as the line of your duty in consequence thereof.

It has been the policy of the executive to lighten your labors, and as far as possible to aid you in the performance of your duties, and I now sincerely congratulate you upon the successful completion of this building, and the near approach of the time when you will present to the city council your final report.

I accept the key of the city hall as the evidence that the building is now ready for the transaction therein of the business of the municipality, and as the representative of the citizens of Providence, I thank you for the service you have rendered.



*Mr. City Messenger :*

For more than seventeen years you have discharged the duties of your office with scrupulous fidelity, and your annual re-election thereto has been most justly deserved. The city council has imposed upon your office the "care and superintendence" of this structure, and the duty of "keeping its various rooms clean and in good condition and repair." I therefore transfer this key to you with full confidence that so long as you hold the position of city messenger, the new duties which have been placed upon the office will be properly executed.

*Fellow Citizens :*

In October, 1874, within six months of the annual municipal election, a resolution passed both branches of the city council to erect the building in which we are assembled. The resolution was promptly returned by the mayor without his approval. The objections which he urged against its passage were as promptly overruled by the two branches, and although the resolution went into effect, the objections have not lost their force by the lapse of time. In the veto message the mayor said: "If the tax-payers of this city, by whom alone the members of the two branches of the city council are elected, and who are to bear the burden of this measure, shall by a re-election endorse the action of the majority, then there can be no longer any excuse for delaying the proposed work, as a chief executive who is chosen by a larger constituency would hardly deem it to be his duty to oppose the expressed will of the tax-payers."

At the ensuing election a majority was re-elected to each branch of the members who had voted for the city hall, and the tax-payers thereby signified their approval of the work which had already commenced, and was being vigorously prosecuted.

From that time until now, I have had but one object in view as regards the city hall, and that was to secure to the

city the full value for the expenditure made here, and to perfect the interior arrangements of a building which is intended to accommodate the municipal departments of Providence for generations.

The building of the city hall was approved by the taxpayers, and to them alone belongs the responsibility of the expenditure. They ratified the acts of their representatives at a time when the work could have been stopped, and it was right and proper that they should by thousands inspect and admire their building before it was dedicated to the uses of the government.

This structure will stand as a memorial of the taste, the skill and the ability of the architect, and of the faithful superintendence of the overseer, who has watched its progress from the beginning until its completion.

It is a pleasure to know, that both in the superstructure and the furnishing, the various contractors have labored to place here a work, to which they could point with just pride as evidence of excellence in their craft. The city hall of Providence, which for more than a generation has been a subject of discussion in the city council, has been erected, and takes high rank among the magnificent structures of the land. Let us hope that the members of the government who shall from time to time hold the various places of trust within this building, may be as true to the city which they represent, and as faithful to her interests as the walls which surround them are permanent and enduring.

After appropriate music, Dr. Robinson then offered the following dedicatory prayer:—

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who hast prepared Thy throne in the heavens; who hast established in the earth the kingdom of Thy Son, which cannot be moved, grant unto us, we humbly beseech thee, Thy heavenly grace, whereby we may, in the offices for which we are now assem-

bled, serve Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear. We thank Thee for all the events of the past by which in Thy good providence Thou hast brought our city to its present estate; that Thou hast preserved it from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the destruction that wasteth at noonday; that Thou hast multiplied its citizens and their wealth; that Thou hast caused knowledge among us to be increased, civilization to be advanced, and instruction in religion and righteousness to be provided for all.

We give Thee most hearty and humble thanks for our holy religion, and for the form of government under which we live; for equal rights, for just laws, and for liberty of conscience; for all our institutions, political, judicial, educational, religious and charitable, and for all the benign influence which these institutions are now exerting in our common life. Perpetuate, we pray Thee, all that is good in these institutions so long as our city shall endure.

Let Thy blessing, most gracious God, now rest on this stately structure, and on all the varied offices to which it is henceforth to be sacred. Let justice ever reign within these walls. Make Thou those who shall here legislate, and those who shall here execute laws, and those who here shall seek the law's protection, alike remember Thee, the one great Law Giver, at whose bar every living soul shall give account of itself and its deeds. Preserve Thou these halls from the curse of demagogism, and of unscrupulous partisanship, and from every species of speculation and official infidelity. May these walls, so fair and majestic as seen from without, ever truly symbolize to the beholder the majesty and purity of the laws administered from within. If consistent with Thy holy will, make Thou the government of this city to be ever administered by men of known integrity of purpose, and of recognized purity of life.

Preserve Thou, we humbly pray Thee, this structure till many generations shall have come and gone, and make it the

seat and centre of a government which, wisely and faithfully administered, shall fulfill all Thy gracious will.

Endue with heavenly wisdom, we beseech Thee, all members of our present city government. May they who frame and they who enforce our laws so fulfill all their obligations that vice among us shall be suppressed, that crime shall be punished, that virtue shall be fostered, that order shall be maintained, and peace and safety be secured to all.

And now, O, Thou Sole Ruler of our race, who holdest the destiny of all peoples within Thy grasp, so fill our hearts with the spirit of Thy gospel that we may in sincerity seek Thy blessing, not only in the city and State in which we dwell, but in every portion of our broad country. Forgive, Thou, all our national iniquities ; heal, Thou, all our national diseases ; redeem our national life from destruction, and crown us with loving kindness and tender mercies, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now may great grace, mercy and peace be multiplied in all our hearts and homes, we humbly ask, in the name and for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

At the conclusion of the prayer the band rendered an appropriate selection, after which Hon. Abraham Payne delivered the following oration :



# ORATION

BY

HON. ABRAHAM PAYNE.



## ORATION.

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MR. MAYOR, GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT, FELLOW CITIZENS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

Early in the year sixteen hundred and thirty-six John Hampden, then little more than forty years old, resolved to resist the payment of ship-money, and thus distinctly raised the issue whether the King or the Commons should have supreme control in England. On the same day his cousin, Oliver Cromwell, then thirty-seven years old, and almost unknown, was writing a letter in which something may be read of the temper which, in due time, was to array Puritanism against Norman chivalry, and raise his country to heights of glory and virtue from which not even the disgraceful era of the Restoration could wholly take her down. All this time John Milton, a youth of twenty-eight years, fresh from the university, and residing under his father's roof, was gathering strength for that defence of liberty with which all Europe was to ring from side to side, and for that poem which, composed in blindness and old age, the world will not willingly let die.

In the same year, probably in the month of June, Roger Williams, then about thirty years old, with his companions in exile, landed here and named the place Providence. From that time until his death he was engaged in what was afterwards described as a "lively experiment how a most flourishing State may stand, and be best maintained with a full liberty in religious concerns." The theatre of his



action, a limited territory on the shores of Narragansett bay ; his work, to protect his own people in their rights, by peaceful negotiations with the Indians, and firm resistance to the encroachments of Massachusetts on the one side and Connecticut on the other. He was not so conspicuous a man as Hampden, or Cromwell, or Milton, but perhaps for useful service no one of them was better entitled to the lasting gratitude of mankind.

If he could visit us to-day he might come in a palace car and notice the change in the mode of locomotion since his time. He would observe the thrift, industry and wealth, which mark the valley of the Blackstone. He might from Prospect Terrace look down upon a scene which would provoke further inquiry. Passing by the University on his way to Slate Rock he would compare the residences of our citizens with the homes of the early settlers, and arrived at the spot where he was first greeted with "What Cheer!" he would not quite understand what is going on there, and would turn his steps to the Narragansett Hotel, and be glad to find that, at last, Providence has ample provision for the entertainment of strangers. He would soon receive a call from the mayor, delighted to show him the modern improvements, all of which he knows, and great part of which he is.

As proper sanitary regulations lie at the foundation of municipal prosperity, he would doubtless first direct his attention to the sewers and water works, and if compelled to admit that these could be improved, he would yet justly claim that they were equal to those of any city in the world. He would then examine the condition of the streets and highways, and of the street-cars and of their horses, and see that in no city are the people better provided for in these respects. He would observe that the Gas Company, free now from unwholesome competition, was yet wise enough to furnish good light upon reasonable terms. He would next look at the provision made for the education of the people ; and as he surveyed the public school-houses and was informed

of the nature of the instruction given in them he might ask upon what principle the people could be taxed to provide for such ample education in the higher branches. The mayor would tell him that the subject had been fully discussed, and the system cordially supported by the great mass of the people.

He would notice the private schools, including the Friends' School, and finally the University, where young men are trained for professional service, and where, I hope, at no distant day, the young maidens may have a chance. Then the charitable institutions—the Butler Hospital ministering to the mind diseased; the Rhode Island Hospital caring for the ills that flesh is heir to; the Dexter Asylum for the poor who are always with us; the provisions for orphan and neglected infancy; the Homes for destitute old age. Then the churches—from the chapel where the worshippers hardly believe in a God, to the cathedral where the faithful believe all that the church teaches—including all forms of faith—all working peacefully together and each more intent on right living than upon doctrinal teaching. And all these institutions, surrounded by thousands of homes in which the domestic virtues are the sources and safeguards of domestic happiness, might convince him that his lively experiment has proved a grand success. If there is another side to this picture, if sin and suffering are still among us, we are to remember that, with all these appliances at our hands, we ought as individuals to use our best exertions for the reformation of the vicious and the relief of the unfortunate.

Mr. Knowles, in the preface to his *Life of Roger Williams*, expresses his regret that there was then no good history of the State of Rhode Island. His own work went far to supply the defect, and the well worn copy in the Athenæum attests the interest of the people in the subject. There is no longer any ground for such complaint. In addition to many valuable contributions to the history of the State, of

local and special interest, there are three sources of information worthy of mention.

The History of Rhode Island, by Samuel G. Arnold, the result of patient industry and conscientious research, stimulated and sustained by enlightened and generous sympathy with the people and institutions of the state, may always be consulted with confidence, and it is gratifying to know that the call for repeated editions is the indication of a just appreciation of the work.

The Annals of Providence, by William R. Staples, is a work of rare and peculiar merit. Disdaining all rhetorical ornament the author tells the story of the settlement and growth of the town of Providence with fullness, accuracy and candor, and yet reveals on every page his warm and abiding love of liberty, his calm and firm fidelity to conscience, and his concentrated hatred of tyranny and persecution. There ought to be a new edition of this work in such form that every Providence boy and girl could have access to it, and make the study of it an essential part of education.

The works of Job Durfee are a mine of historical research and philosophic thought which the intellect of the state may work to advantage. Rhode Island never had a wiser friend. Some of those whom I now address can remember the great magistrate as he presided in the Supreme Court; calm and courteous in manner, modest in his estimate of himself, and yet conscious of an ability competent to deal with the highest problems of jurisprudence, his judgments met the approval of Whipple, Atwell, Carpenter, Ames, and the other instructed counsellors who contended in his tribunal. His lectures upon the Indians, his lecture before the Rhode Island Historical Society, his oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, illustrate the old definition of history: "philosophy teaching by examples." His charges to the grand jury were a revelation to the people of the true origin, functions and authority of the state. Whoever aspires to serve Rhode Island at the bar, on the bench, in congress, or

in the general assembly, should make a careful study of the works of Job Durfee.

I do not propose to detain you with a narrative of events in the history of the state or of the city. More skillful hands than mine have been employed in that work. Nor shall I disturb the old controversies, now nearly at rest, about the banishment of Roger Williams. I have from time to time read much upon that subject, and it is, for the most part, a wearisome and profitless study. Nor shall I here controvert or defend the abstract doctrine which is known under the name of "soul liberty." Abstract propositions about government may no doubt have a certain value; but, after all, government is "a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants." It must be confessed that the supply of wisdom has not always been equal to the demand, but it may be doubted whether the deficiency can be supplied by theory. Catharine of Russia remarked to a philosopher who was instructing her in the art of government: "that is all very well for you; you work upon paper which can make no resistance; I have to deal with the human skin, which is ticklish at times."

It is not many days since I listened to some eminent divines from Massachusetts discoursing in this city about Roger Williams, and I amused myself with what he might have said if permitted to take part in the discussion. "Paint me as I am," was the stern command of Cromwell to the artist. He expressed the natural feeling of every strong man. "Do not trouble yourselves," Roger Williams might say, "about those old quarrels between me and the brethren in Massachusetts. They were never an important part of my life, and they are now of no consequence at all. Nor do I attach any great importance to my writings, or to any opinion which I may have entertained, or expressed, upon abstract or difficult questions of theology, or about the relations and powers of church and state. It is well to have these collected in handsome volumes, for the examination of

those who may be curious in such things, as it is well to open parks and build monuments in my honor. I am grateful for these things, but I base my claim to the attention of this generation upon other grounds. Whatever may have been the cause or the justification, those people in Massachusetts certainly did send me away. I journeyed for fourteen weeks in the wilderness, not knowing what bread or bed did mean, and I lost neither my courage nor my temper. I came here, and dealt honestly with all men, savage or civilized. I purchased territory of the Indians, and I allowed my associates to share in the purchase. I offered a welcome to men of all opinions, and they gathered around me. I so won the confidence of the Indians that in their wildest raids they would not hurt a hair of my head, and I was able again and again to save the communities, who would not tolerate my presence, from the tomahawk and the scalping knife. I resisted with success the attempts of Massachusetts and Connecticut to encroach upon my borders and to foment disaffection among my people. I visited England and procured charters under which life, liberty and property were safe in Rhode Island for two hundred years. In a word, I ruled as Pericles ruled in Athens, as Henry of Navarre ruled in France, as Cromwell ruled in England, by force of honest purposes, consummate judgment and that ascendancy over men which was their birthright and mine. Under my rule there came into existence a commonwealth in which individual liberty and public order have been reconciled as they have been nowhere else upon the face of the earth."

It is this grand practical result which makes the history of Rhode Island unique and valuable ; and it is widely appreciated. A lady who has travelled far, but whose heart is still at home, once said to me : "there is no better place to hail from, in any part of the world, than the city of Providence." And a gentleman said to me : "I have lived in every state from Maine to Texas, and have found no people so friendly as the people of Rhode Island."

The explanation is simple, Rhode Island men and women, while claiming the right to form their own opinions and to regulate their own conduct, do not seek to control or find fault with the opinions and conduct of other people.

It would be pleasant to dwell upon some of the illustrations of this, which have fallen under my own observation, during a period of not much less than half a century, and to attempt to bring before you some of the men and women I have known in their habit as they lived; but the time would fail, and I might trespass upon the dignity of history, of which I am very careful.

Let it suffice to allude to the burning of the Gaspee, when the sober citizens of Providence in conscious rectitude, and in a just cause, but without law, and against law, committed the earliest of those grand acts of rebellion which ended in national independence; to the long and persistent resistance, in the interest of liberty, to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, probably unwise, but none the less characteristic, earnest and sincere. On the other hand, remember how the law was upheld in the suppression of the Olney street riots. I might cite the events of eighteen hundred and forty-two; but though the old fires have died away, the embers are alive under the ashes, we should not be quite at one upon all points, and this is no time or place for controversy. We shall all admit that law and order prevailed in those days, and here I must relate an anecdote which, upon the occasion to which I have referred, a Massachusetts divine of rare gifts and virtues did not properly locate. It was shortly after eighteen hundred and forty-two, and when at a dinner in New York some gentlemen were expressing great anxiety about the anti-rent disturbances in that state, "Gentlemen," said Mr. Webster, "the remedy is plain; annex yourself to Rhode Island."

It is well to study the past, to reverence the great and good men who have lived before us, and to build monuments in their memory. Happy is the individual who can trace

his descent from a virtuous ancestry! Happy the nation whose annals record great achievements in war and peace! It is as true of communities as of individuals that "all the foregone days of virtue work their health into this." These great advantages Rhode Island and her citizens, native and adopted, may justly claim. I say adopted, as well as native, for though a great Rhode Islander once spoke of the immigrants from other states as "men who have come among us without our invitation, and upon whose departure there is no restraint," he alluded only to those who impertinently meddled with institutions which they were unable to appreciate. To all such as have intelligence enough to know when they are well off, Rhode Island has always extended a cordial welcome.

But Rhode Island will not forget that while she has excelled them all, other daughters have done virtuously. Each one of the old Thirteen has a grand history, and together they have created a "noble and puissant nation (even now) rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks, as an eagle mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full mid-day beam."

But the achievements and virtues of the past will avail us only as they encourage us to act well our parts in our day and generation. In a very important sense it is better to forget those things which are behind and press forward. Our work is in the living present. And there is work enough. The fields are white for the harvest. As a nation we are entering upon a new century of life. Grave questions are under discussion. Great opportunities encourage exertion. Serious dangers call for vigilance.

There once prevailed an impression that the last act in the great drama of the race was to be enacted here. If we failed, the experiment of free government would never be renewed. I do not share in this impression. I have faith that the world improves from age to age, but I see no reason

why the same causes which have destroyed other nations, may not also destroy this nation. I know of no reason why we may not furnish another example,

“How nations sink, by darling schemes oppress,  
When vengeance listens to the fool's request.”

I am quite confident that only the old-fashioned virtues will save us. I expect wonderful discoveries in science, adding in the future, as similar discoveries have added in the past, to the physical improvement and felicity of the race; but I expect “no new discoveries in morality, nor many in the great principles of government, nor in the ideas of liberty, which were understood long before we were born, altogether as well as they will be when the grave shall have heaped its mould upon our presumption and the silent tomb shall have imposed its law upon our pert loquacity.” Honesty, purity, industry, fidelity, a sense of obligation to fellow men and of responsibility to God were as well understood by the Hebrew law-giver as they ever will be understood, and their relation to the well-being of individuals and nations is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever.

But I see no reason for discouragement. I see no signs of national decay. It is true that a glance at the morning papers might seem to indicate that embezzlement, robbery, adultery, suicide, and crazy schemes for making money out of paper have taken possession of mankind. But we must remember that a newspaper collects the exceptional cases. He was a wise man who said: “Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle repose beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud, and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field.” Forgive me for quoting Burke so often. I fear that some of my younger hearers are not so familiar with him as those of us who read the English classics some fifty years since.



In my opinion the heart of the people is sound, most men are honest, and faithful to trusts. I hope I do not underrate the exceptions or their fearful consequences. But corruption, fraud and venality are not new in history, and their punishment, though often delayed, has always been sure.

There is much to be read in these days about the existence of a personal God. May I be permitted to say that to my mind the revelation in history of what the Greeks called Nemesis, and what we call Providence, is stronger evidence of the presence of a righteous and intelligent Ruler than any signs of contrivance and design in the material world.

There are many hopeful signs of the times. Famine and pestilence are not new things, but when before have such exertions been made for their relief as now? Vice and crime are old; what is new is the vast and varied effort for the reformation of the vicious. The profoundest problems relating to the origin, the character and the destiny of man have been discussed from the dawn of history, but never, I think, in a temper so catholic, reverent and humane as in this generation.

Forms of statement in theology which once prevailed live no longer in the faith of reason, but never, I think, in any previous age have the essentials of religious truth had greater control in the hearts and minds of men than they have to-day. But perhaps these themes are too high; perhaps this is not a fit occasion for the discussion, and with a single suggestion I pass to other matters. It will be seen that I have faith in the future of the country. There are some political commonplaces which are misleading without explanation. It certainly is not true, except in a very limited sense, that all men are created equal, or that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed. It probably is true that the best form of government yet devised is that of the people, by the people, for the people. I see no reason to question the celebrated declaration that in this country liberty and union now and forever are one and

inseparable ; but all forms, in the end, must yield to substance, and neither liberty nor is union an end in itself, but only a means to the end of giving every man and woman protection and a fair chance in life. No government will long retain the respect or the support of the people which does not bring its whole force, if necessary, to the protection, in all constitutional rights, of every man, woman and child, of whatever clime or color, over which it claims or ventures to float its flag.

Vague advice as to the performance of duty may not be so useful as a practical suggestion of some definite thing which ought to be done. While there are many institutions and enterprises in this city which deserve fostering care and liberal support, but which cannot now be alluded to, there are some which seem to me to be of special interest and about which I wish to say a few words.

The Franklin Lyceum. Great value is to be attached to debating societies as a means of education. Public debate, in this part of the country, has of late fallen into disuse, but it cannot be dispensed with. The press is powerful and useful, but it cannot supply the place of the living voice. The Founder of Christianity knew what was in man when he provided for the preaching of His gospel. Printed sermons do good, but the pulpit is a perennial necessity. When vital issues are to be discussed, when the hearts of men are moved, as forests are moved by the wind, there is a call for the eloquent orator. The orator is the natural foe of the tyrant. The one thing of which Cæsar was afraid was the tongue of Cicero. The Franklin Lyceum should receive a liberal patronage. The young men of the city should avail themselves of its advantages, and interest themselves in the discussions there. Remember it is a debate which I recommend, and not the platform talk, when there is no chance to reply, of which the spontaneous growth is quite sufficient. That requires no cultivation. I understand that the Lyceum invites young ladies to its meetings. It is to be hoped that they

may be allowed to participate in the debates. They would soon cause the young men to look well to the foundation of their opinions. I think that if the members of the Judiciary Committees of the General Assembly were compelled to debate with the ladies who come before them from year to year, the cause of woman-suffrage would make more rapid progress than it does.

The Public Library. I should like to discourse upon the subject of reading. Much has been said about it, and well said, but the half has not been told. Gibbon said he would not exchange his habit of reading for the wealth of the Indies. Of course not. Of what use would the wealth of the Indies be to him? Rufus Choate intimates that he would have been insane but for his power of losing himself, after the vexations of the court-house, in his library. I can understand that. Alexander T. Stewart is said to have required no amusement but such as he could find in a good book. I can understand that. By reading I do not mean consulting books for instruction in any branch of knowledge. I do not mean study for the improvement of the mind. These are perhaps the highest uses of books, but I am speaking of reading as rest, recreation, amusement. That man or woman is little to be envied who cannot at any time which can be spared from active duty find pleasant company in a book; and then a book can always be laid aside at will, and this is not true of any other company. I hope the Public Library will receive such patronage that all the people will have access to the best books as freely as to the air we breathe. Books are almost as essential to the health of the mind as fresh air is to the health of the body.

The University. It belongs to the state as well as to the city, but in what I have said to-day I have not attempted to separate the state from the city. They cannot be separated. Their rights, their duties are to a great extent common, their interests are wholly so. It is said that Mr. Webster drew tears from Chief Justice Marshall in the Supreme Court of

the United States, when he alluded to his love for Dartmouth College. "It is a small college," he said, "but there are those who love it." Men of less ability may yet cherish a love for the place of their education, and you will pardon me if I say a few words about Brown University.

I speak of the time when I was a student there. We went, some of us, attracted by the fame of the president. We were told that it was a Baptist college, but that Dr. Wayland was so great a man, and so admirable a teacher that it was best to overlook the sectarian character of the institution. We remained there four years, and so far as I remember had no means of knowing what denomination, or whether any, had control of the college. I am sure that Baptists never stood any better chance than the rest of us. But all that had been told about the president was true. I have always intended publicly to express my sense of obligation to that man, and now is the time. I see him now as he stood in the old chapel and spoke to the students of the claims of religion upon educated young men, in a sermon, whole passages of which I remember. Dr. Wayland owed something to a personal presence, second in majestic dignity only to that of Daniel Webster. He owed more to that force and precision of thought in which neither Daniel Webster nor any other man was his superior. His crowning merit was respect for the rights, and fidelity to the laws of conscience. In this he was the peer of Roger Williams.

There may have been teachers equal to him, but though I have had many, and some good ones, in college and since I left it, I have never met the equal of Dr. Wayland in influence over me. I repeat here what I have often said, that whatever I may have been able to do in my profession, or otherwise, I owe in great part to daily contact with the mind of Dr. Wayland during a portion of my college life. But to return to the subject of the university. We thought that we had a sufficiently thorough training there in those days, but I know that the standard of education is much higher

now, and I am confident that there is no college in the country which offers opportunities to young men superior to those of Brown University.

I do not think that it has received from this community an adequate return for the benefits which it has bestowed. Liberal benefactors it has had, but it deserves a more general support, and I venture to say this not unmindful of the remark that there are few pleasures equal to that of giving away other people's money. I took a new pride in my friendship for William F. Sayles when he made a memorial to a beloved child, a contribution also to the cause of sound learning. I presume that he could say with the English nobleman upon whom a like affliction had been laid: "I would not give my dead son for any living son in Christendom." But why should not some of our citizens whose living sons come from its walls well equipped for the warfare of life, express their gratitude by contributing of their substance to the university? They would never regret it, and it may be doubted if they could better serve the community by any other use of their money. The university is prosperous now, but it ought to be able to supply the constantly increasing demands of the times. It will return four-fold whatever it may receive. You cannot afford to neglect its claims. One thing is certain, whatever the future may have in store for us; whatever changes may come in church, state, or social life, no community can have permanent welfare in which enlightened intellect and educated conscience do not bear sovereign sway and masterdom.

I have not said anything about the building which we have come here to dedicate. I do not intend to say much. It has arisen in fair proportions after many years and much controversy. It is worthy of the prosperous and rapidly growing city of Providence. There was a time when the Ark of the Covenant dwelt within curtains, but there came a period in the progress of the nation when it was fitly surrounded by the splendor of the temple-worship.

The business of the city of Providence has heretofore been very well transacted in one place and another ; it has now found an appropriate home. Within these walls from generation to generation will be preserved the public records. Here the city officers will perform their daily duties. Here from time to time the legislative and administrative boards of the city will assemble. No complaint will ever be made by the citizens of the cost or adornment of this building so long as it is occupied by honest and capable men, and if it is not so occupied it will be the fault of the citizens themselves.

As we bring these exercises to a close it is impossible not to be reminded that while communities endure, the life of the individual is short and precarious. A few more diurnal or annual revolutions of the earth, and us the all-beholding sun will see no more in all his course. Others will soon take our places and we wish to bid them welcome. It would be unwise for me to use other words than those which were spoken long since at the Rock of Plymouth.

"Advance, then, ye future generations ! We would hail you as you rise in your long succession, to fill the places which we now fill, and to taste the blessings of existence where we are passing, and soon shall have passed, our human duration. We bid you welcome to this pleasant land of the fathers. We bid you welcome to the healthful skies and the verdant fields of New England. We greet your accession to the great inheritance which we have enjoyed. We welcome you to the blessings of good government and religious liberty. We welcome you to the treasures of science and the delights of learning. We welcome you to the transcendent sweets of domestic life, to the happiness of kindred, and parents, and children. We welcome you to the immeasurable blessings of rational existence, the immortal hope of Christianity, and the light of everlasting truth !"

## CLOSING PRAYER BY BISHOP HENDRICKEN.

Almighty and everlasting God, we bow down in humble acknowledgment of Thy supreme dominion over us, and of our absolute dependence upon Thee. Hallowed be Thy name : notwithstanding our manifold offences Thine eyes are always open to our miseries, and Thine ears ever ready to hear the supplications we offer unto Thee. To-day our hearts are filled with gratitude for new favors. This edifice in which we are assembled is the work of Thine own hands. Thou hast inspired its beauty and construction, and enabled us to bring it to a successful termination. We know that unless the Lord build the house, in vain have they labored who build it. We have planted and watered it is true, but it is to Thee we look for the increase. It is not to please the fancy that this magnificent structure is erected, but to provide accommodation suitable for the dignity and growth of a great city, and for those who will share in its government. Give us, O Lord, men of honest energy and sound sense, who will carry on the city administration on the same business principles with which they conduct their own private concerns. Teach our chief magistrates in the future as Thou hast graciously taught them in the past, to act as non-partisan representatives of the municipal interests, turning neither to the right hand, nor to the left, ignoring party politics, but devoting themselves entirely to the interests of the city. Teach them a wise and far-sighted economy—not such as will stop needed improvements, but such as will guard us against willful waste, political harpies, unscrupulous and superfluous officials. We wish to have everything made beautiful and attractive around us ; fine buildings, and handsome residences ; the necessities of life, such as fine parks with pure air, pure water, clean and well paved streets with ample sewerage. These invite wealth from elsewhere to settle amongst us. Whatever in this way helps

to enrich the city and promote the general prosperity of the people, we will gladly encourage, and in procuring them we ask of Thee, O Lord, Thy powerful assistance.

But as the interests of the soul are paramount to those of the body, we beg of Thee, the Spirit of Wisdom, that we may always desire eternal things in preference to the goods of this world; the spirit of understanding, that 'free from perplexity and doubts we may neither be slow in believing nor in working; the spirit of counsel that we may be protected against all irreverent conduct and hasty decision; the spirit of virtue, that strengthened by the divine grace, we may be willing to lose all our temporal possessions, our lives and our liberties, rather than yield to the transgressions of Thy divine law. Grant us to have compassion on the poor, that we may do them good, and bear the evil they do us without breaking forth into expressions of anger and cruelty against them.

Finally, O Lord, we acknowledge and thank Thee for the exhaustless wealth of this great country; for the genius of its citizens, the advancement of science, and the immense growth of our material prosperity. May these favors never retard our modern progress. It is not for our indulgence that Thou bestowest such blessings, but that we may become better Christians. Let us not mistake unbelief for enlightenment, nor licentiousness for independence. Teach us that authority is not inconsistent with liberty, and that individual freedom can and ought to exist without anarchy. Teach us never to forget that religion must be the real basis of good government and social prosperity; and that whatever tends to lessen our faith on Divine truths, leads to selfishness, loss of patriotism, and danger to our common country. Amen.

#### THE BENEDICTION.

May the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, descend upon you, filling you with all manner of good things, and abide with you forever and ever.





## REPORTS.



EXTRACT FROM THE FINAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CITY HALL COMMISSIONERS.

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The following are the entire disbursements of the City Hall Commission for the originally contemplated work, with the objects of the expense, and the separate amounts expended on them.

Excavation, B. F. Gladding, contractor, . . . . .	\$1,512 47
Piling and foundation, Boynton Bros., contractors, . . . . .	34,636 80
Granite work, J. G. Batterson, contractor, . . . . .	222,071 68
Brick account, Hopkins & Pomroy, contractors, . . . . .	54,817 38
Laying brick and setting granite, H. G. Macomber, contractor, . . . . .	47,543 05

IRON WORK.

Wrought and cast iron work, roof, etc., etc. First contract with C. H. Parker & Co., Boston; second with Architectural Iron Works, New York, and the completion of it by A. R. Whitney, Esq., New York, bondsman of latter Co., . . . . .	122,957 35
Iron work extra, outside of contract, A. R. Whitney, . . . . .	14,672 92
Iron work in dome, per contract, A. R. Whitney, contractor, . . . . .	3,962 00
Wire lathing substituted for concrete tiles, A. R. Whitney, personal contract, . . . . .	11,735 00
Area coverings with Hyatt light, A. R. Whitney, personal contract, . . . . .	874 00
Flue pipes, contract with Architectural Iron Works, . . . . .	1,510 00
Iron window frames and shutters, in place of wood as contracted for, G. W. & F Smith, Boston, contractors, . . . . .	4,087 79
Amount carried forward, . . . . .	<u>\$520,380 44</u>

Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$520,380 44
Corrugated iron floor and partitions in dome, J. B. & J. M. Cornell, New York, . . . . .	3,065 09
Vaults, doors and frames, C. E. Kirkshaw, . . . . .	2,315 00
Heating and ventilating apparatus, Davidson & Mars, contractors, finished by Edward Mars, New York, original contract, \$20,420, . . . . .	31,361 41
Plastering and stucco work, John Mack, Boston, contractor, original contract, \$16,200, . . . . .	18,227 33
Carpentry and contingent work, Morton & Chesley, Boston, contractors, original contract, \$79,828, . . . . .	103,334 08
Plumbing account, P. & J. Tierney, Providence, contractors, original contract, \$7,879, . . . . .	17,218 97
Marble work, A. Wentworth Roberts & Co., Boston, contractors, original contract, \$16,700, . . . . .	25,047 80
Electric work, tubes, wires, indicators, clocks, etc., O. C. Williams, contractor, Providence, . . . . .	18,733 03
Spanish tiling for floors, John Chadwick, New York, contractor, . . . . .	4,631 49
Bronze lamp pillars, lanterns, etc., in front and on the sides, Shreve, Crump & Low Manufacturing Co., contractors, Boston, . . . . .	2,320 74
Lightning rods, W. A. Orcott, contractor, Boston, . . . . .	750 00
Gas piping, etc., Walworth Manufacturing Co., contract, \$669, and extra, . . . . .	1,787 20
Concreting sub-basement, floors, walls, etc., contract with Portland Cement Stone Co., . . . . .	8,150 71
Levelling up floors with cement, concreting, etc., contract with G. W. Lewis, . . . . .	5,884 79
Passenger elevator, Galland, Bash & Co., New York, contractors, . . . . .	6,566 09
Side walk lifts, T. Stebbins & Whittier Manufacturing Co., contractors, . . . . .	921 25
Water and sewer connections, Providence Water Works, . . . . .	2,834 75
Fire-proof ceilings and partitions, contract with J. G. Haley, . . . . .	5,856 25
Hot water boiler, P. & J. Tierney, . . . . .	589 09
City of Providence, bill for engineering, . . . . .	2,634 00
Office rent and expenses, . . . . .	1,801 75
Clerk hire, . . . . .	3,102 66
Advertising, . . . . .	910 26
Books, stationery and printing, . . . . .	238 38
Superintendent, contract with S. P. Brown, . . . . .	8,750 00
Architect, contract with S. J. F. Thayer, . . . . .	26,148 00
Amount carried forward, . . . . .	\$823,360 56

Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$823,360 56
Carpentry during construction, alteration account, grading, etc, . . . . .	8,084 04
Extra masonry during construction, . . . . .	2,358 02
Coal account, contracts and orders of commissioners, . . . . .	2,538 71
Birch lumber, flooring account, contract with Waumbek Lumber Co., . . . . .	3,876 19
Laying track from H. P. and Fishkill track to yard, . . . . .	1,329 35
City of Providence for water, . . . . .	795 83
Various bills not classified, which on the commissioners' books are charged to "sundry account": —	
Paper under floors, dome, etc., etc., H. Staples & Co., . . . . .	326 91
Cloth for windows during construction, . . . . .	111 85
Models of columns, pilaster, etc., and boxing, . . . . .	622 00
Wire guards for basement windows, H. H. Fenner, . . . . .	85 00
C. A. Hall, measuring account, . . . . .	317 98
Flag-staff and two side staffs, and work on them, . . . . .	416 89
Paints, oils, varnish, brushes, etc., etc., Rice, Draper & Co. . . . .	319 80
Work on heating, gas, etc., various small bills, Wood & Winsor, . . . . .	361 87
Blacksmithing, sharpening tools, iron work, etc., Thomas Wyatt, G. W. Smith, . . . . .	1,435 94
Temporary heating account, including coal, . . . . .	410 97
Oiling and filling floors, . . . . .	342 38
H. Morgan, teaming, . . . . .	43 70
Bronze rosettes, . . . . .	40 00
Work ordered by lamp department, in dome, etc., . . . . .	225 10
Work on ventilator in dome, sinks, etc., Spicers & Peckham, . . . . .	394 55
Electrical expert, L. W. Clarke, . . . . .	50 00
Work on ventilator, etc., H. T. Root, . . . . .	96 94
Painting roof and puttying same, L. Levesidge, . . . . .	210 05

## Bronze work by John R. Shirley :

Bronze rail, . . . . .	\$15 50
Nickel plated rail, . . . . .	18 00
Bronze work, . . . . .	25 25
Letters on mail boxes, . . . . .	40 00
U. S. mail box, . . . . .	55 00
Iron ventilator, . . . . .	90 00
Lamps, per contract, . . . . .	195 00
Lantern posts, . . . . .	200 00
Gas piping, etc, . . . . .	90 00
Gate and trimmings, . . . . .	114 63
	<hr/>
	843 38
Amount carried forward, . . . . .	<hr/> \$848,998 01

Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$848,998 01
Bronze work, . . . . .	\$212 27
Posts, lanterns and gas work, . . . . .	179 36
Picture rods, etc., etc., . . . . .	310 51
Tablet, . . . . .	400 00
	<hr/>
	1,102 14
Guards for elevator, . . . . .	90 00
Providence Gas Co.'s bill (\$100 for work on pipes), . . . . .	907 40
Pay rolls of S. P. Brown, superintendent, ashes for floors, sand, gravel and labor bills, . . . . .	9,213 97
Painting vestibule and furnishing seal, . . . . .	200 00
Heating apparatus, Walker, Pratt & Co., . . . . .	74 00
Hardware, tools, etc., Barker, Chadsey & Co., . . . . .	62 63
Repairing wood work, paint, etc., after exhibition of building, Morlock & Bayer, . . . . .	287 45
Iron gallery, stairs, shelves, etc., extra in treasurer's vault, Builders' Iron Foundry, . . . . .	300 00
Storm doors, sash, etc., Morton & Chesley, Matthew Chace, . . . . .	1,068 70
Iron work, jobbing, Wyatt & Barton, . . . . .	190 00
Personal expenses of the commissioners with the superintendent to, from, and in New York on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of February, 1877, to inspect certain buildings, previously to consummating the interior contracts on city hall, . . . . .	86 00
	<hr/>
	\$862,580 30
From this amount deduct profit on oak lumber sold contractors, \$995.29, and sundry sums credited "sundry accounts," \$135.97, . . . . .	1,131 26
	<hr/>
	\$861 449 04
	<hr/>
This sum, \$861,449.04, not only includes the actual amount expended by this commission conformably to the estimates, but it includes the enhanced cost of the change agreeably to resolution No. 122, 26th February, 1875, of the city council, of making the structure fire proof, as well as the increased expense resulting from many important alterations and additions ordered from time to time to be made by the city council, . . . . .	
	861,449 04
The commission has also, agreeably to instructions, expended for sidewalks, not contemplated in estimates, . . . . .	22,994 96
The commission includes among its expenditures the expenses of laying the corner stone, . . . . .	1,106 28
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward, . . . . .	\$885,550 28

Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$885,550 28
The two following charges, being sums allowed by the city council on an appeal from a decision of this commission, are included among its disbursements:	
H. G. Macomber, on contract for laying brick and setting granite, . . . . .	10,500 00
S. J. F. Thayer, architect, . . . . .	10,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$906,050 28

The following are the appropriations which have been made to this commission, with the dates showing the times they were granted :

1874. October 28. No. 1, . . . . .	\$10,000 00
December 3. No. 2, . . . . .	100,000 00
1875. July 6. No. 3, . . . . .	200,000 00
1876. February 3. No. 4, . . . . .	100,000 00
September 28. No. 5, . . . . .	100,000 00
1877. March 15. No. 6, . . . . .	100,000 00
July 5. No. 7, . . . . .	100,000 00
1878. February 11. No. 8, . . . . .	38,498 00
April 18. No. 9, . . . . .	50,000 00
July 10. No. 10, . . . . .	75,000 00
October 21. No. 11, . . . . .	75,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$948,498 00

The whole amount expended by this commission agreeably to foregoing statement, . . . . .	906,050 28
Leaving an unexpended balance of forty-two thousand four hundred forty-seven and 72-100 dollars, agreeably to the books of this commission, . . . . .	42,447 72

The following charges against the city hall have been furnished by the auditor, and they are expenditures over which your commissioners have had no voice nor control :

Boynton Brothers, . . . . .	\$33,140 05
Asphalt pavement, . . . . .	11,809 28
Grading, . . . . .	1,321 45
Telegraphic expense, . . . . .	1,780 00
Amount ordered to be taken from appropriations to the city hall commission, and transferred to furniture committee, . . . . .	28,225 00
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Amount carried forward, . . . . .	\$75,775 78



## THE CITY HALL.

Amount brought forward, . . . . .	\$75,775 78
Amount ordered to be taken from appropriation to the city hall commission, and transferred to furniture committee, . . . . .	735 00
Amount ordered to be taken from appropriation to the city hall commission, and transferred to furniture committee, . . . . .	300 00
	<hr/> \$76,800 78 <hr/>

This expenditure of seventy six thousand eight hundred and 78-100 dollars being by the city charged to the city hall account, lessens by precisely this amount the balance, which, by the commissioners' books, appears to its credit. Your commissioners, therefore, have requested your honorable body that so much of their original appropriation as may be necessary to meet all liabilities included in the sum of \$906,050.28, be restored to the credit of this commission, accordingly on February 4, 1879, \$30,000 was so added, and on May 7, 1879, \$5,000 was also added, . . . . . \$35,00000  
Add balance as shown by the books of the commission, . . . . . 42,447 72

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77,447 72  
76,800 78

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Unexpended balance, . . . . . \$646 94

The models of columns, pilasters, etc., are supposed to be in the possession of J. G. Batterson, the contractor, and should be returned, as they may, in case of accident, be of value to the city. Having completed the duties assigned to them, the commissioners respectfully request that the honorable council indicate to whom the books, papers and material in their office shall be delivered.

Upon the presentation of the final report of the city hall commissioners, the city council unanimously passed the following resolutions, which were approved by the mayor June 20, 1879 :

RESOLVED, That the final report of the city hall commissioners be received, and the city council hereby tenders to

said commissioners congratulations upon the completion of their work, and thanks for gratuitous services rendered in the erection of this substantial and elegant edifice.

**RESOLVED,** That the city hall commissioners be requested to deliver to the city clerk, all books, papers, and material belonging to the city, now in their possession.

## EXTRACTS

FROM

### REPORT OF JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PROCURE FURNITURE FOR CITY HALL.

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October 1, 1877, a contract was made with Mr. Samuel J. F. Thayer, to make the designs and working plans, and to superintend the construction of the furniture and fittings to be purchased by the committee.

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On the 12th of October, 1876, the committee were directed by the city council, to consider and report upon the suggestions of the city hall commissioners in their report of the same date, relative to the proper assignment of the rooms in the city hall to the several departments of the government. The committee gave long and careful considerations of this matter, and caused entirely new floor plans to be made by the architect, introducing many alterations of minor partitions, and radically changing the location of many of the departments. The result of this labor was reported to the city council, January 11, 1877, and the report was adopted by joint resolution No. 30, series of 1877.

On the 29th of January, 1877, the committee reported to the city council the advisability of greatly increasing the size of the large room of the water departments by a change of partitions, and also of altering and enlarging the entrance

doors to this room. The suggestions so made were approved and ordered to be made by joint resolution No. 64, series of 1877.

On the 26th of April, 1877, the message of the mayor, relative to the size of the aldermen's chamber, and advising its re-location and enlargement, was referred to the committee as to its propriety and cost.

On the 7th of May, 1877, a report was presented to the city council from a majority of the committee adverse to any change, and also a report from the minority of the committee recommending that a change be made. The report of the majority was adopted by the city council.

By joint resolution No. 282, series of 1878, twelve thousand dollars was appropriated to defray the expenses of painting so much of the interior of the building as might be thought advisable, and this committee were authorized to cause the work to be done.

Subsequently, by joint resolution No. 376, same series, the appropriation for painting was added to that for furnishing.

On the 24th of August, 1878, the committee were authorized to sell by public auction such of the furniture in the old city building as might not be required in the new city hall, the proceeds of such sale to be added to the appropriation for furnishing the new city hall. Under this authority sale was made on the 15th of February, 1879, the net proceeds of which were \$936.87, and this amount was paid over to the city treasurer. \* \* \* \* \*

On the 24th of August, 1878, the committee was charged by the city council with the duty of properly connecting the various departments of the city government in the city hall with the lines of telegraph used by them, the expense thereof to be charged to the appropriation for the city hall. The committee have completed this duty, and will make a separate report upon this subject.

On the 24th of August, 1878, the claim of S. J. F.

Thayer for compensation for extra services as architect of the city hall was referred to the committee with authority to settle the same. The committee held several long sessions on this matter, and carefully heard the testimony of parties on both sides, causing the testimony to be taken down by a short hand reporter. An amicable settlement was finally made, reducing the amount claimed by nearly one-half, which settlement was reported to the city council January 20, 1879.

On the 15th of March, 1879, the committee were authorized to settle a claim of Messrs. Potter, Denison & Co., against the city for a desk, etc., contracted before the appointment of this committee. After a careful consideration of the matter it was found to be impossible to make a settlement satisfactory to the committee, and a report to that effect was made to the city council May 22, 1879.

April 5, 1879, the matter of the claim of F. Hacker & Co., for pay for a picture and frame, was referred to the committee with authority to settle the same. On the 19th of May, 1879, the committee reported to the city council that the purchase was not made by them, and that settlement had better be made in some other way.

Appropriations have been made for furniture for the city hall as follows: By

Resolution No. 569, series of 1875,	.	.	.	.	.	\$50,000 00
" No. 282, " 1878,	.	.	.	.	.	12,000 00
" No. 383, " 1878,	.	.	.	.	.	936 87
" No. 464, " 1878,	.	.	.	.	.	10,000 00
" No. 611, " 1878,	.	.	.	.	.	5,500 00
" No. 160, " 1879,	.	.	.	.	.	725 00
Total,	.	.	.	.	.	<u>\$79,161 87</u>

Expenditures have been made by the committee as follows for the articles hereinafter named:

THE CITY HALL.

99

New furniture, . . . . .	\$29,925 51
Labor and materials in the repair and refinish of old furniture, . . . . .	2,504 20
Gas fixtures, . . . . .	10,889 16
Burglar-proof safes, . . . . .	5,250 00
Clocks, dials and battery for same, . . . . .	2,916 67
Chairs, . . . . .	3,719 54
Carpets, . . . . .	1,204 62
Metal rail in treasury, aldermen's chamber and water department, . . . . .	2,268 00
Decorative painting, including all painting in rooms decorated, . . . . .	7,057 94
Plain painting, . . . . .	3,745 92
Premiums for designs for decoration, . . . . .	250 00
Architect's fees, . . . . .	3,029 48
Plate glass and mirrors, . . . . .	2,061 75
Curtains and leather hangings, . . . . .	1,195 57
Hydraulic letter presses, . . . . .	285 00
Printing, . . . . .	69 28
Travelling expenses, . . . . .	241 00
Hose and fire extinguishers, . . . . .	142 75
Spittoons, . . . . .	232 00
Thermometers, . . . . .	48 50
Metal towel racks, . . . . .	58 50
Plumbing, . . . . .	13 64
Towels, . . . . .	65 55
Sign painting, . . . . .	49 55
Ice water set, . . . . .	30 00
Electric lighting machines and wire, . . . . .	495 15
Picture frames, . . . . .	152 20
Marble work in treasury and aldermen's chamber, . . . . .	624 60
Fire-grates and fixtures, . . . . .	172 58
Repairs of old town clock, . . . . .	4 00
Match boxes, paper baskets, step ladders, brooms, brushes, door mats, metal numbers and mops, . . . . .	414 89
Services of short-hand reporter in taking testimony in the matter of the claim of S. J. F. Thayer, ordered to be settled by resolution No. 374, series of 1878 . . . . .	18 00
Services of secretary of the committee authorized by joint resolution No. 246, series of 1878, . . . . .	200 00
<b>Total expenditures, . . . . .</b>	<b>\$79,285 55</b>
<b>Total appropriations, . . . . .</b>	<b>79,161 87</b>
<b>Deficiency, . . . . .</b>	<b>\$123 68</b>

The following is a list of the names of the parties and the

amount paid to each, of whom purchases have been made, certified vouchers for which are on file in the office of the city auditor :

S. J. F. Thayer,	\$3,029 43
J. A. & R. A. Reid,	69 28
E. S. Rhodes,	12 00
Doe & Hunnewell,	1,750 17
Morlock & Bayer,	11,061 04
Lawrence, Wild & Co.	8,719 54
Page & Littlefield,	6,300 00
Morton & Chesley,	7,016 80
John R. Shirley,	777 78
E. Howard & Co.,	2,916 67
George A. Mills,	3,404 39
Richards & Belden,	1,244 31
A. T. Stewart & Co.,	1,304 17
Thomas Phillips & Co.,	285 00
W. J. McPherson,	7,157 94
Alexander Grant,	3,745 92
Cornelius & Co.,	12,393 88
Potter & Co.,	2,637 33
Corliss Safe Manufacturing Co.,	5 250 00
A. Wentworth Roberts & Co.,	624 60
Smith & Co,	1,400 00
J. Harry Welch,	214 62
Mitchell Vance & Co.,	495 15
G. & C. P. Hutchins,	230 50
Henry T. Root,	147 31
A. J. Barnaby (expenses),	68 00
W. Y. Potter (expenses),	161 00
W. Y. Potter (services),	200 00
New England Butt Co.,	9 67
Thomas F. Adams,	135 00
G. A. Wallace & Co.,	23 33
Timothy Heffernan,	49 55
D. D. Sweet & Co.,	536 50
Tillinghast & Sherman,	37 00
Perkins Institute for the Blind,	132 48
Daniel F. Hayden,	18 00
H. A. Hall,	1 50
H. T. Rider,	8 75
Isaac Hale,	4 00
F. G. Hagan,	52 20

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Amount carried forward, . . . . . \$78,624 86

Amount brought forward,	\$78,624 86
H. T. Brown & Co.,	30 00
W. Barstow & Co.,	65 45
Wallace & Co.,	6 00
E. J. F. Barton,	25 00
Grant & Ruge,	75 00
F. H. Smith,	50 00
E. J. N. Stent,	100 00
Thomas H. Perkins,	105 00
Tucker Manufacturing Co.,	20 00
Hartwell, Richards & Co.,	4 55
Barker, Chadsey & Co.,	66 50
P. & J. Tierney,	13 64
Bugbee & Hall,	48 50
A. C. Eddy & Studleys,	29 25
A. M. Bishop & Co.,	21 80
Total,	\$79,285 55

The committee have had frequent consultations with the city hall commissioners, to the end that the furniture and fittings might harmonize with the interior finish of the building. The uniform courtesy and valuable advice so received have been of great assistance in the attainment of any success achieved in this respect.

The committee have held sixty-one meetings, and the sub-committee on the reception of furniture have been on duty constantly for more than half the time between May 1, 1878, and January 1, 1879.

In conclusion, your committee desire to state that they have endeavored to carry out the original ideas of the projectors of the city hall, and have been desirous that the interior, in its furniture, fittings and decoration, should compare with the dignity and character of the building, in solidity, strength and fitness for the purpose designed, and they feel sure that there is not a more complete structure, in all its details, among the public buildings in the country.





DESCRIPTION  
OF  
CITY HALL.



## DESCRIPTION OF CITY HALL.

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The city hall is built of cut granite, having its main entrance from Dorrance street. Viewed from any point upon Exchange place, it presents a striking appearance, and has been an object of great interest to the thousands who have visited it since its completion in November, 1878. Externally the building presents a massive but plain front.

There is very little ornamented carving, but the predominance of lofty pillars and heavy arches gives to the whole a majestic beauty.

It occupies an entire square, fronting upon Exchange place, and is bounded by Dorrance, Washington, Eddy and Fulton streets, and is surrounded by a sidewalk composed of granite blocks from five to six feet in width, and from eighteen to twenty-one feet in length.

The basement, entered by doors on each of the four streets surrounding the building, is occupied by the police department, board of public works, superintendent of health, superintendent of public schools, and the sealer of weights and measures, and is finished plainly, but elegantly, in oak. Beneath the basement is a cellar, or sub-basement, containing the four fifty-horse power boilers designed to heat the building, the shops connected with the water department, and the machinery for operating the elevator.

The main or first floor is reached from the street by a broad flight of steps on Dorrance street. Over the main entrance are the dates, 1874-'78. Within, the departments

are arranged about a hollow square, the central part of the building being devoted to spacious corridors, with floors of white marble and wainscoting of variegated marbles, in which black and gray predominate, and to a broad flight of white marble stairs, which, leading from the main floor to that above, divide to the right and left at a landing twenty-five feet above the main floor, at the head of which is a bronze tablet, surmounted by the city seal painted upon tiling, and bearing upon it this inscription :

Corner Stone Laid,  
June 24, 1875.  
Commissioners from 1874 to 1876 :  
JAMES Y. SMITH,  
GEORGE H. CORLISS, WILLIAM G. R. MOWRY.  
Commissioners from 1876 to 1878 :  
WILLIAM G. R. MOWRY,  
HENRY G. RUSSELL, WILLIAM M. BAILEY.  
Dedicated  
November 14th, 1878.  
THOMAS A. DOYLE, Mayor.  
SAMUEL J. F. THAYER, Architect.

From these stairs one has an unobstructed view to the top of the building, which is surmounted by a huge arch, or skylight, of glass and iron, rendering all parts of the building "as light as day." The other floors of the building are reached by stairs on one side of the building, while on the other an elevator, run by water and handsomely finished, and connected with each landing by electric bells, carries passengers from the basement to the highest story. The corridors are supported by six polished granite pillars, and surrounded by massive iron balustrades.

At the right of the main entrance on the first floor is the executive department, comprising the outer or mayor's clerk's office, and the public and private offices of the mayor. The former is tastefully finished in black walnut. The latter is finished in beautifully polished mahogany, while the rich Saxony carpet, the beautiful mantel of Spanish marble, and

tasteful frescoing of the walls and ceiling, combine to make them the admiration of all visitors.

The remainder of the first floor is occupied by the departments of the treasurer, auditor, tax assessors, recorder of deeds, and city messenger, and the reception room. This latter room is also finished in mahogany, and furnished throughout with great elegance and taste. Splendid mirrors adorn either end of the room, and the walls are covered with embossed leather of beautiful design. The remaining rooms on this floor, as well as in the rest of the building, are finished, with one exception, in oak, and are supplied with every convenience, among which should be mentioned the impregnable safes of the Corliss patent in the Treasurer's vaults, which are a marvel of mechanical ingenuity.

The second floor contains the chambers of the common council and the board of aldermen (the two occupying the entire front and overlooking Exchange place), the municipal court room, the law department, the offices of the city clerk, and committee rooms. The aldermen's chamber is provided with suitable desks for the mayor and aldermen, and is beautifully finished in mahogany, the decoration of the walls being in perfect harmony with the furnishings of the room. A private stair-case leading from the basement to the second floor gives access to the mayor's private office, and the chamber of the board of aldermen. The council chamber is a spacious and lofty room, fifty-eight feet long by forty-six feet wide, and thirty-six feet high, finished in oak, and handsomely decorated and lighted by a chandelier of fifty lights, each burner having the form of a candle. The desks of the members are separated by a railing from the seats of the audience, who sit near the entrance and under the balcony, which is entered from the story above. Upon the walls hang the portraits of all the mayors of the city, from its incorporation to the present time.

Upon the third floor are the city engineer's department, occupying an entire end of that story; the offices of the

superintendents of lights and of public buildings, and the room of the committee on claims.

The fourth floor, except the suite of rooms occupied by the family of the janitor, is as yet unused except for storing purposes. Ascending the iron stairway which leads up into the dome, the visitor comes to the battery room. Here are placed the batteries which generate the electricity used in striking the fire alarms throughout the city, and in running the clocks in the building. Going still higher up the circular flight which leads to the top of the dome, the visitor gains a grand view of the city, the surrounding country and Narragansett bay.

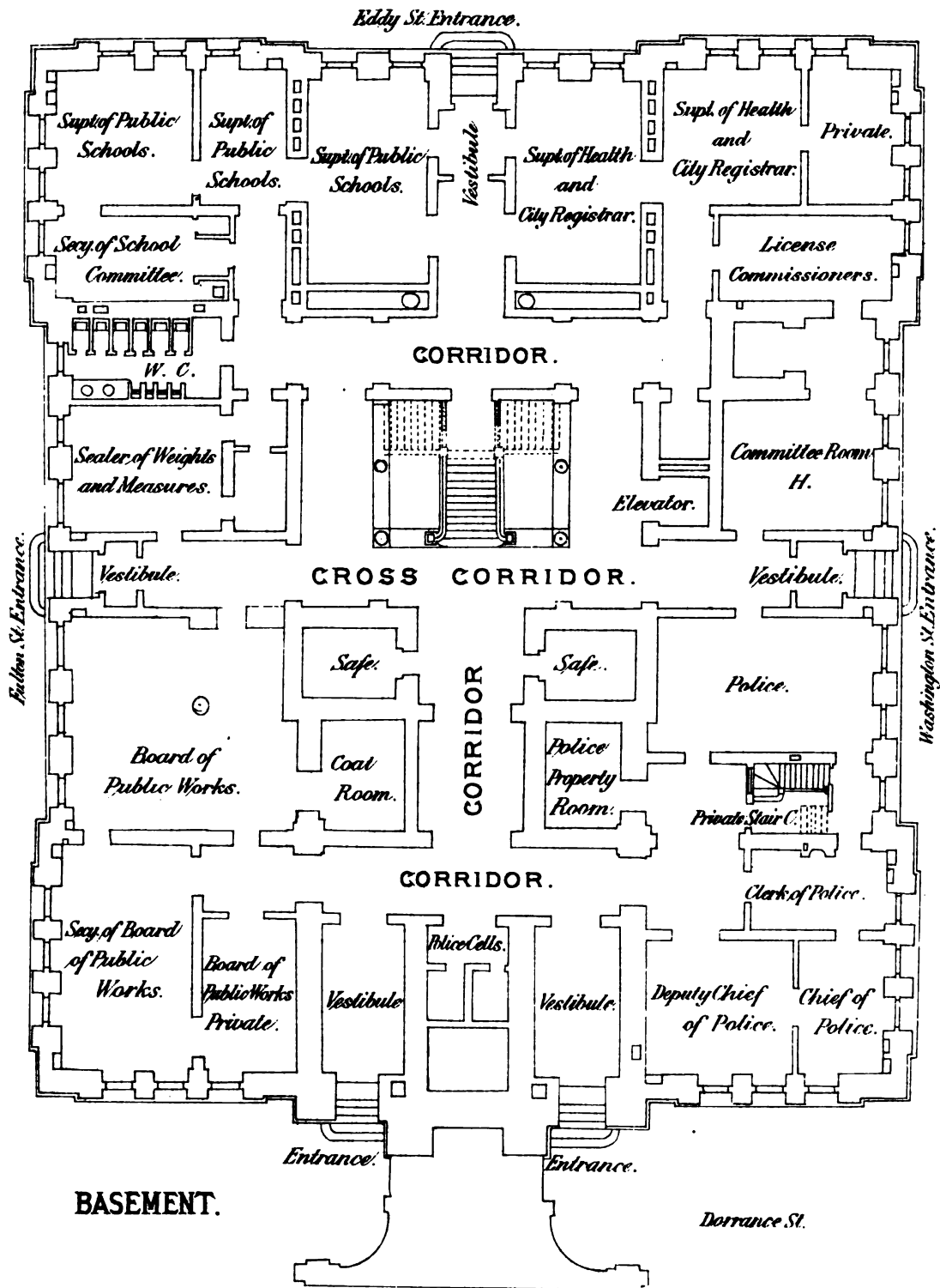
There is nothing wanting in the whole building to render its occupants comfortable and to facilitate the conduct of business. Speaking tubes, with electric signals and annunciators, connect each office with those whose business is at all related, while the mayor's and the city messenger's offices are in these ways placed within hailing distance of every occupant of the building. Clocks keeping uniform time are so disposed as to meet the eye at almost every turn, and telephones connect with all outside departments.

The total cost of the building was \$1,034,521.84.

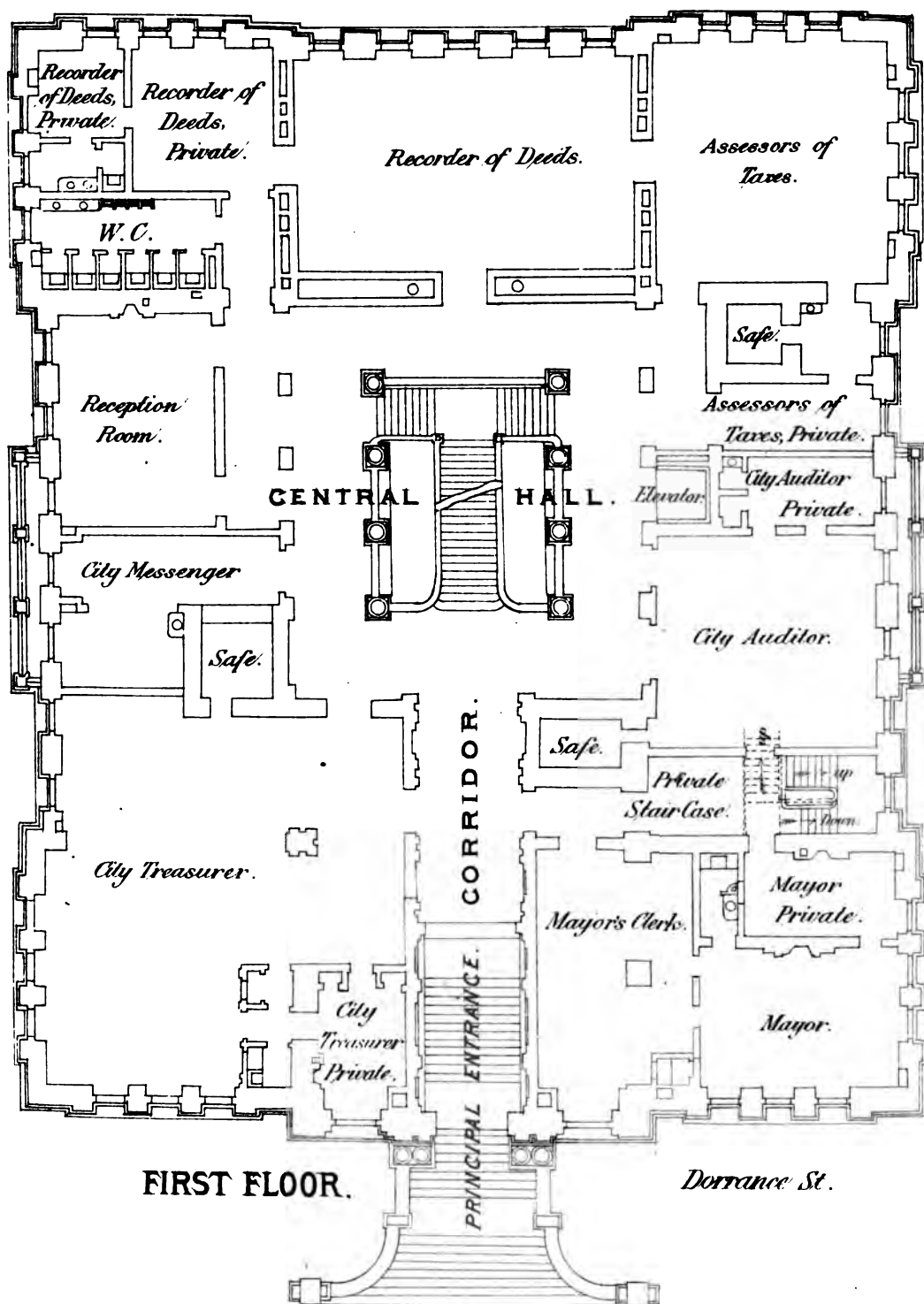






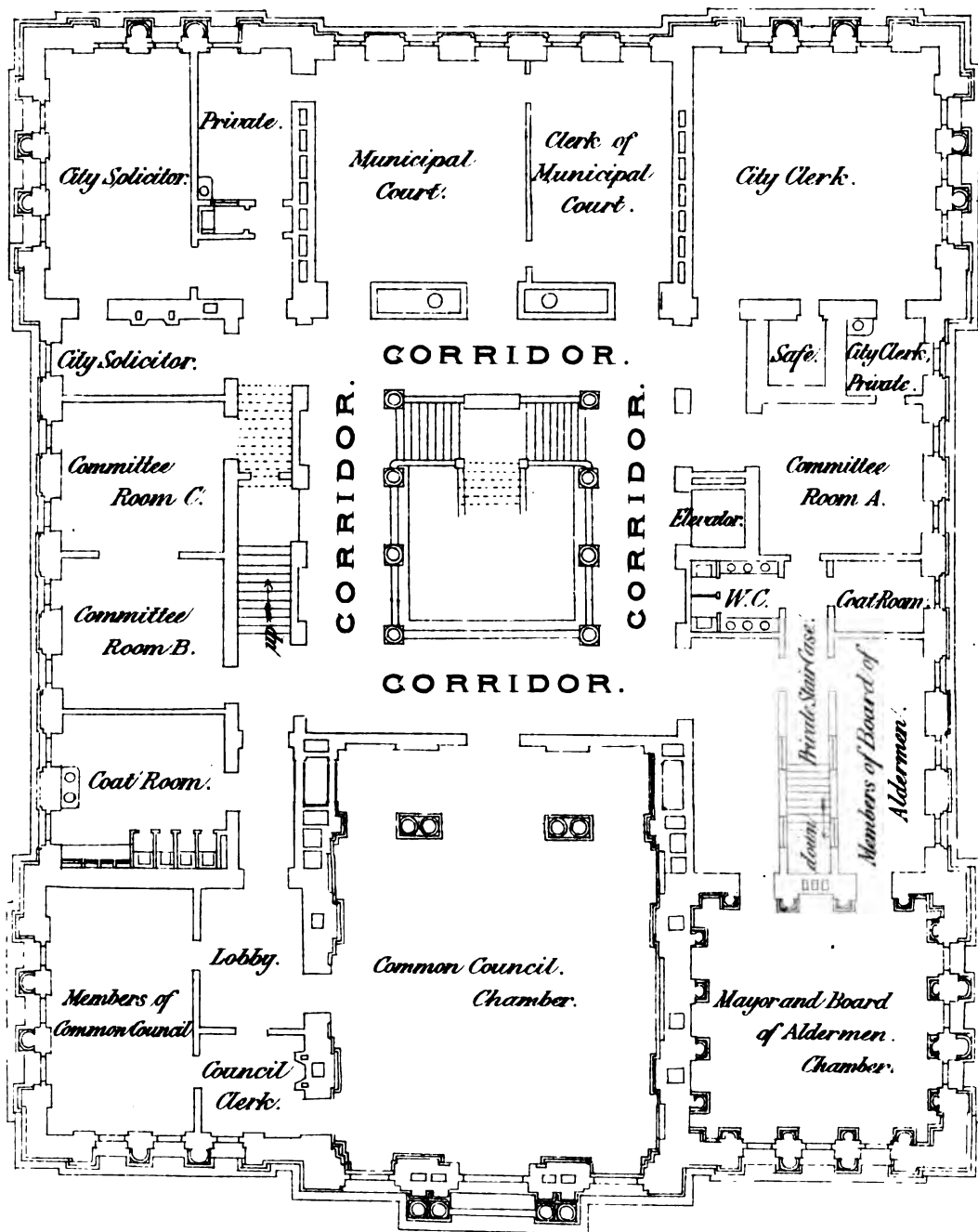






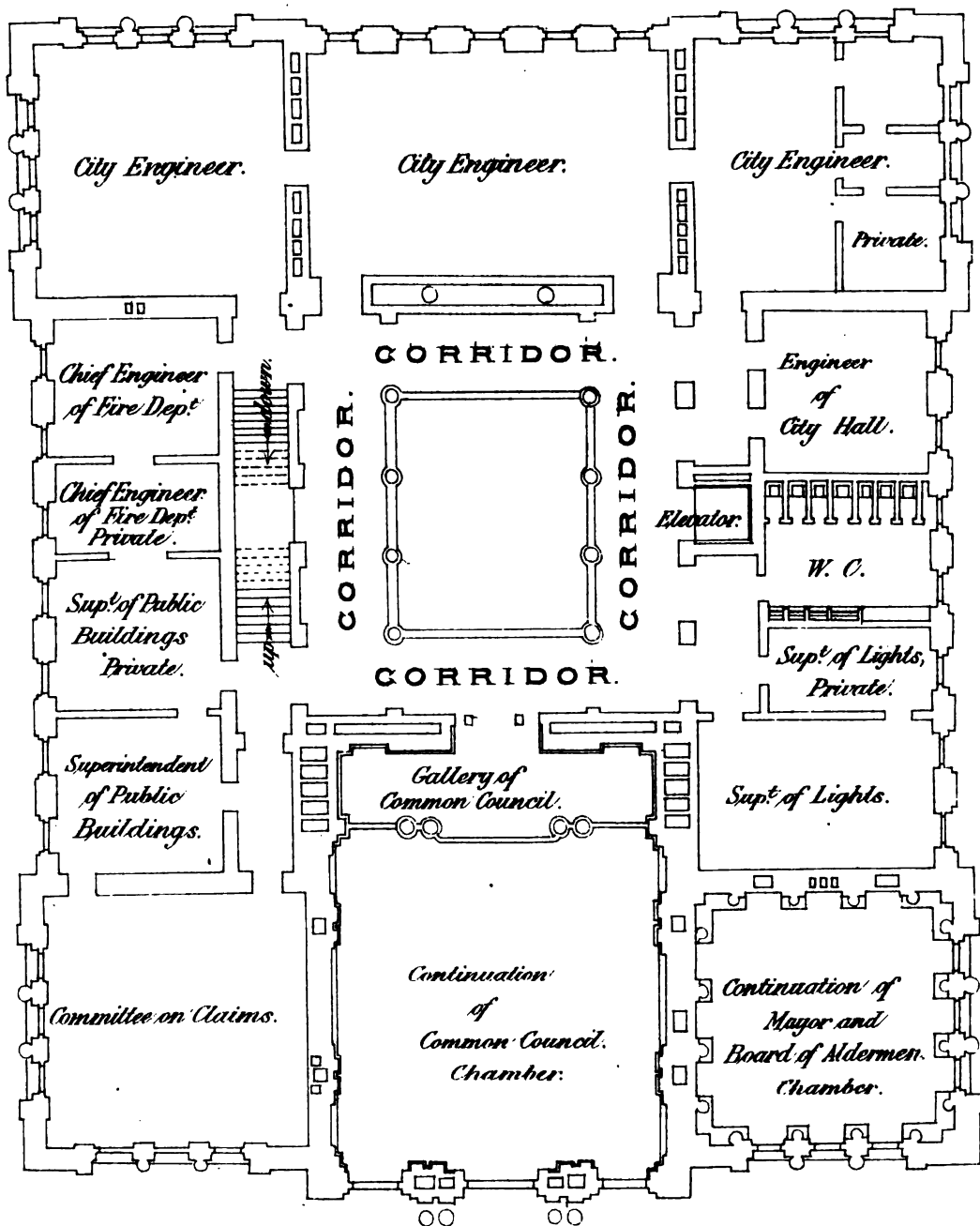
FIRST FLOOR.





**SECOND FLOOR .**

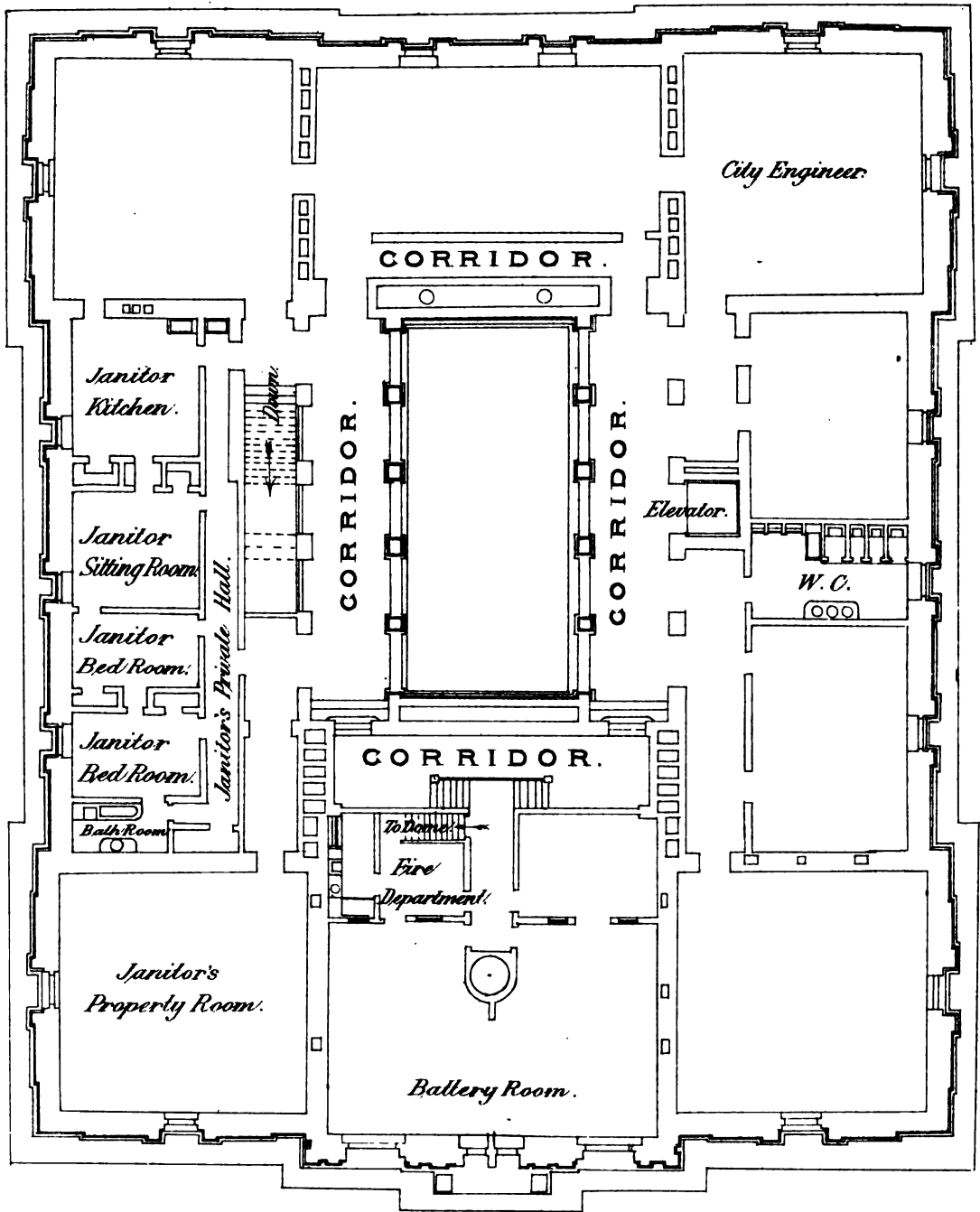




THIRD FLOOR.







FOURTH FLOOR.



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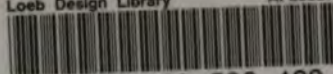
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The City hall, Providence. --  
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Council, 1881.  
viii, 108 p. ; 27 cm.  
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Dedicated, November 14, 1878."

1. City Hall (Providence, R.I.)
2. Providence (R.I.)
3. Providence (R.I.)
1. Providence (R.I.)

